



ABOVE: A local choir gets involved with a men's cancer charity, see page 7.

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2012



BRIDGEND
Christmas Profile
Pages 25-27

RHOOSE

The Village with great businesses and service · Pages 18-19



Picture by **KEITH E MORGAN**
(See more photos on page 5).

ABOVE:

A group photograph of pupils at Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger, taken to celebrate the school's 30th anniversary (1982-2012).

THREATENED TO KILL HIMSELF AT HOME OF FORMER PARTNER

Local man jailed for second breach of restraining order

A MAN has been jailed for 16 months at Cardiff Crown Court – for breaching a restraining order.

In a distraught state, 29-year-old Christopher Wintle went to the home of a former partner after drinking and threatened to kill himself.

He shouted: "I must see you, I can't live without you," said prosecutor Christian Howells.

Wintle, of Dan-y-Coed Flats, Aberkenfig, admitted breaching a restraining order, causing damage

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

and failing to provide a breath sample.

Mr Howells said the five-year order had been made to prevent Wintle contacting Tessa Collins, and not to go within 100 yards of her home.

They had had a relationship for seven years, he said.

On October 14, she was at her home in Bettws and at 1pm, a friend of the defendant contacted her

saying Wintle had taken an overdose and wanted to see her.

At about 5pm, while she was watching television, he appeared at the window of her house and went to the front door, threatening to kill himself. He kicked a panel of the front door six or eight times.

A panic button had been fitted in the house, and one of the occupants pressed it.

Wintle then shouted: "You are going to kill me, you.....bitch," before leaving in a vehicle.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Osteoporosis

fracture risk assessments

Osteoporotic fractures are common in post-menopausal women and victims may suffer from pain, deformity and loss of independence.

Hip fractures can prove fatal.

Osteoporosis can be prevented if weak bones are detected early enough but scans for assessing risk of fracture are not always readily available on the NHS.

However, you can now have a safe and painless non-invasive scan for £26.



Scans for risk of osteoporosis will be available on:
Thursday, 6th December
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and at Porthcawl Awel y Mor Centre

For further information and to book an appointment, please call Healthcare Screening on 0800 612 6106.

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Mynydd Cynffig Junior School pupils with MP Madeleine Moon.



Vegetarian MP not suited for the Celebrity jungle!

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon was grilled by pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School recently in a question and answer session.

She reported: "I was welcomed to Mynydd Cynffig by Neil Davies, head-teacher and Mrs Greta Rogers, chair of school governors. The school choir,

with over 40 pupils from years 5 and 6, sang superbly and then the Q&A began. There were so many hands in the air, it was difficult to know where to begin!

"The initial question was how old are you, and followed up with what do I like best about my job, to which I replied - visiting schools and talking to pupils like you.

"I was asked if I would be going into TV's Celebrity jungle, to which I responded that as a vegetarian I would not be able to eat any awful food and that a rare vegetable probably would not be very funny!

"I did relate a story to the children about attending a banquet in Tibet and being served sheep's brains and tadpole soup for starters, followed by yak's foot

in aspic, which the children thought was hilarious and caused quite a stir.

"The Mynydd Cynffig school choir sang beautifully once more and I was told they have been invited to perform in numerous events in the community during December.

"The school choir are singing at the Cancer Research Candle Service in All Saints Church on December 2; in the

BCBC Civic Offices on December 5; then at St Theodore's Church on December 16 and their own carol service on December 19 at St Theodore's Church.

"If you get the chance to attend one of these events I am sure you will be amazed by the singing," the MP urged.

Regional AM will greet constituents in the back of his cab!



ABOVE: Regional AM Byron Davies in the black cab he uses to greet constituents.

PORHCRAWL residents who see a London black cab cruising around Porthcawl shouldn't hail it, because

it is being driven by a regional AM!

Byron Davies, Welsh Shadow Transport Minister and Welsh Conservative regional

AM for South Wales West, uses the taxi for his constituency business.

Mr Davies has owned the vehicle for five years, but has recently had it branded with his photograph.

The cab doubles up as a surgery where electors can consult him.

"It's very handy, especially if there is no suitable community centre to hire," he said.

"I just park up in a pre-determined place and residents come in and explain their problems.

"Many people are quite intrigued to see me in this cab.

"A few have tried to hail me as I have been driving along so it's good fun.

"I use it now as a runaround. It is quite economical and I tend to take it out on constituency business. It's a great ice-breaker."

Project helping people to find health and social care work

SOME 16 people from the valley areas of Bridgend county borough have benefited from a training scheme designed to help them improve their skills and find new jobs in health and social care.

The Bridgend County Borough Council Employment Routes project, which is funded by the Welsh Government's Western Valleys Regeneration Area, has now seen its seventh project, Health and Social Care, come to a successful end.

The project, which began in 2010 and is operated by Manpower, targets economically inactive people from the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore Valleys and helps them return to work.

As part of the initiative, the participants took part in sector specific work experience and training within local companies and charitable organisations, which is central to its success in securing employment at the end of the route.

All 16 participants have been working towards an NVQ level two qualification in Health and Social Care and will complete this by the end of December 2012.

They gained numerous other certificates during the scheme, including first aid and health and safety, and

have also improved their basic skills abilities in both numeracy and literacy.

Mike Woods, development and delivery officer for Bridgend, said: "This particular project has seen 56 per cent of our participants going into work and we are hopeful that this will increase to 75 per cent by Christmas 2012."

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "We are extremely pleased that this, our seventh employment initiative in the employment routes portfolio, has helped to further develop the employability of those residents who are furthest from the job market in our Western Valleys area.

"The Bridgend Employment Routes project has exceeded all expectations in terms of developing exciting routes to the job markets, getting the very best local employers on board and the co-operation of the various partners.

"I also commend the commitment of the team from Manpower."

For more information on the Bridgend Employment Routes Initiative, call Sue Whittaker on 01656 815324 or email: sue.whittaker@bridgend.gov.uk.

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS: Who will you nominate?

EACH year, Bridgend County Borough Council honours the county borough's most outstanding citizens in the Mayor's annual citizenship awards.

Once again, residents are being asked to nominate the most deserving

members of their community.

The awards are open to all citizens who live and work in the borough who have made a positive impact within the community. Groups and businesses that deserve recognition can also be nominated.

Coun Marlene Thomas, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough Council, said:

"I am lucky in my role to meet and hear about some truly amazing individuals who, whether through voluntary or charity work, personal achievement or an act of bravery, make a real difference in their communities.

"The Mayor's citizenship awards give us an opportunity to tell the rest of the county borough about the amazing things that these people do - I'm looking forward to reading their stories when the nominations start to arrive."

Individuals or groups



Coun Marlene Thomas, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough

can be nominated for significant efforts through voluntary or charitable work, by carrying out an act of bravery or achieving excellence in sport or the arts.

For full details of the award criteria and to download a nomination form visit www.bridgend.gov.uk or phone 01656 643663.

The deadline for submission of nomination forms is Friday, January 18 and successful nominees and nominators will be notified shortly afterwards.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 6)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
29 Thur	06.34	9.5	18.54	9.4
30 Fri	07.07	9.4	19.27	9.3
01 Sat	07.39	9.4	20.00	9.2
02 Sun	08.13	9.2	20.33	9.1
03 Mon	08.47	9.0	21.08	8.8
04 Tues	09.24	8.8	21.48	8.6
05 Wed	10.06	8.5	22.34	8.3
06 Thur	10.57	8.1	23.31	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Will referendum after referendum make us 'sick'?

READ that the Silk Commission recommends that the National Assembly has tax-raising powers, but says that we must have a referendum first.

Only last year, we had a referendum on law making powers. What then about control of our Welsh police forces being transferred to Wales? Do we have to have another referendum for that?

What about control of our law courts - another referendum?

Control of planning

for wind farms, power, water or anything not defined in our original devolution settlement of 1997 - do we have to have referendum after referendum until we're so sick of them that we have turn-outs as low as those for the Police Commissioners elections?

If we're going to have a referendum, let us make it worth having - a referendum on Wales having the same powers as Scotland.

After all, that's what opinion polls showed most Welsh people wanted before the referendum last year.

Colin Lewis
Kenfig Hill

Mum of two recalls terror attack on her guide dog

A MOTHER-of-two from Corntown has welcomed new measures designed to stop attacks by out-of-control dogs.

Kirsten Barrett, a physiotherapist, spoke out as the Welsh Government launched its draft Control of Dogs Bill.

Mrs Barrett had to take three weeks off work when her guide dog was attacked by two strays in January this year. Her black Labrador, Norman, lost half an ear and had to be retired following the attack.

Recalling the incident, Mrs Barrett said: "Norman and I were walking my daughter, eight, to the school bus when I heard dogs coming up the lane. One drew level with us, ran across the lane and attacked Norman from the left.

"I tried to get between the dog and Norman and I was bitten on the hand. A neighbour came out with a stick and it got diverted."

Mrs Barrett pushed Norman to safety up a neighbour's drive and into the house. After put-

ting her daughter safely on the bus, she realised her hands were bleeding and Norman had lost half an ear.

"Police picked up the dogs and they were put down," said Mrs Barrett.

"They were not microchipped and did not have owners."

Following the attack, Norman was unable to work and was retired immediately, leaving Mrs Barrett without a guide dog.

"He needed surgery and had to stay overnight in the vets. He became wary of other dogs and he would try to get away from them."

Mrs Barrett could have faced a long wait for a suitable replacement dog – but luckily, Guide Dogs Cymru took just three weeks to pair her with Honey, a Labrador golden retriever cross.

Attacks on guide dogs by other dogs are running at an average of eight a month in the UK.

Launching the Welsh Government's draft Control of Dogs (Wales) Bill, Environment Minister John Griffiths said: "While the majority

of dogs are kept under control and do not represent a risk to the public, dog attacks are on the increase, and children and animals, including guide dogs, are often the victims."

Guide Dogs Cymru has welcomed the draft measures, aimed at preventing dogs from becoming dangerously out of control, and wants compulsory microchipping for dogs in Wales to be introduced without delay.

MICROCHIPPING
The organisation has called on all 60 Assembly Members to support new legislation.

Andrea Gordon, engagement manager at Guide Dogs Cymru, said: "Guide Dogs Cymru is very pleased that the minister recognises the risks faced by guide dog owners, and we welcome the plans to promote responsible dog ownership in Wales."

"The impact of an attack on a guide dog can lead to it being unable to help a blind or partially sighted person to get about independently."

"In some cases, dogs have been so badly hurt

that they have to be retired, and attacks are very frightening for guide dog owners, who rely on their dogs for safe, independent mobility."

"Blind and partially sighted people are often isolated and the mobility and confidence that a guide dog provides is vital to their quality of life, as well as everyday tasks such as shopping and meeting friends and family."

"We believe that microchipping will encourage responsible dog ownership and will prevent owners of dangerous dogs from denying responsibility if a dog carries out an attack."

LOCAL MAN IS JAILED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He was arrested shortly after and said: "What the **** have I done? I've been in I day, have done **** all."

He was aggressive, and had to be taken to the floor. He was asked to supply a sample of breath, but refused.

He denied damaging the door, admitted shouting, and said he was not drunk.

He was said to have convictions for assault, harassment, battery, the breach of another restraining order, and causing grievous bodily harm.

His counsel, Owen Williams, said: "He is candid about the whole matter, and accepts the only sentence is custody. When sober, he accepts the extent of his wrongdoing and the seriousness of his offending."

Judge Neil Bidder said Wintle's ex-partner had made it "crystal clear" she wanted no contact with him.

A statement by her told that she had suffered and was herself a vulnerable person.

"Your constant pestering of her makes her condition worse. You failed to understand that this relationship was finished, and this is the second serious breach of an order of the court."

He was disqualified from driving for a year, and directed to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

LADIES WILL SPARKLE IN FESTIVE HARMONY!



The Harmony Ladies Choir

HARMONY Ladies Choir will hold their Christmas concert on December 6 at 7pm in Salem Chapel, Nantaffyllon with traditional carols, hymns and some pop classics.

The choir was formed six years ago and this year per-

formed as the headline act at key shows, including the Jubilee concert in St Michael's Church, the Fairtrade concert at Trinity, Porthcawl and their own annual concert in September.

During the Christmas concert the ladies will be modelling brand new outfits, provided by new sponsor David Emanuel. Shan White, Harmony's

chair, commented: "David Emanuel's Port Talbot branch of Bon Marche were thrilled to sponsor us with our new tops and would like to feature us in the February edition of the company's magazine!"

Tickets cost £5 including a tipple of sherry, and a mince pie. Contact Shan White on 01656 739337.

Porthcawl 'SHOUT' set to welcome Older People's Commissioner for Wales

ONCE again Porthcawl 'SHOUT' has succeeded in providing its members and the town of Porthcawl with the opportunity to meet and perhaps influence the future policy of the new Commissioner for Older People in Wales, Sarah Rochira.

In 2008, Ruth Marks, who recently relinquished this responsibility, became the first Older People's

Commissioner following an Act of Parliament that provided Wales with the first Older People's Commissioner, to be appointed anywhere in the world.

For four years, the commissioner's team has been working tirelessly to air the views of older people and is probably best known for major work in addressing 'Dignity and Care in our Hospitals' still an ongoing objective one year on.

Sarah Rochira, who has previously led the National Institute for the Blind, immediately

issued a document setting out her priorities. She is quoted as saying: "Too many older people live in poverty, have ill health, feel excluded or discriminated against, do not have the basic information they need to make important decisions, are victims of abuse or simply do not receive the little bit of help needed when they ask for it."

The commissioner has over the last few months been very active visiting many parts of Wales with what she describes as her 'Engagement Roadshow' meeting with older people and hearing what matters to them.

She has already concluded that older people don't want 'huge things' often it is about 'the small things like getting a bit of help on a timely basis.'

Often the help needed is to overcome the thousand little barriers that get in the way. When she comes to Porthcawl the commissioner will be keen to hear what matters to us

in Porthcawl and district and particularly what barriers impact on the lives of all of us and our families.

Gary Victor, chairman of Porthcawl SHOUT, is to be applauded for inviting the Commissioner to come to Porthcawl so soon after her appointment.

This 'special' Porthcawl SHOUT meeting will be held at Trinity Church Hall, Porthcawl on Friday, December 7 and while the formal meeting will commence at 2pm, members and friends are invited to meet for a Christmas party with coffee and mince pies (£2 per head) at 1pm, and it is hoped that the commissioner will also find it possible to join us for this informal gathering.

All are welcome to participate in what should be a special informative, and thought provoking occasion.

CLIVE MORT
Hon Secretary

QC recounts past help from the Rotary Club



ABOVE; Sue Cassidy, chair of community service, His Honour Judge Neil Bidder QC, president Rev Mike Lewis, Allan Brookes, secretary and Brian Roberts, treasurer.

NOVEMBER is Rotary Foundation Month, when Rotary Clubs are asked to support their own charitable foundation.

Bridgend Rotary Club were recently entertained by His Honour Judge Neil Bidder QC, who in 1978 was the first foundation scholar supported by Bridgend Rotary Club.

Judge Bidder was born in Neath, son of Glyn Bidder (secretary of Pencoed RFC and district representative of the Welsh Rugby Union). Neil was educated at Ogmere Grammar School, Queen's College Cambridge, where he obtained two degrees, a BA and an MA, and then as ambassadorial scholar attended the University of Canada, Dalhousie, where he gained an LLM.

Neil was called to the bar in 1976, and was made a recorder in 1994. He

took silk, or was appointed to Queen's Counsel in 1998, and was appointed to the circuit bench for Wales and Chester in 2004.

His Honour gave an enlightening talk as to how he had spent the bursary donated to him by Bridgend Rotary Club, which had enabled him to complete his university course in Canada and also to travel throughout the United States, and how the experience had helped in his personal development.

He was most complimentary to Bridgend Rotary Club for the contribution that they had made towards his academic achievements, and to his preparation for life generally, which has been of benefit to him in his judicial duties.

He was delighted to receive a framed copy of a photograph taken with club officers in 1978. WM

Looking forward to carols and some mince pies

THIS month's meeting of Bridgend WI was another fun and energetic affair, with members taking part in a Beetle drive.

President Pauline Long opened the meeting and welcomed two visitors, Carolyn and Sandra. She reminded members of the Penta Pen-y-Bont link carol service to take place in St Crallo's Church, Coychurch, at 3.30pm on Monday, December 3, plus the Christmas tree festival to be held in the Orangery at Margam Park on December 5.

We will be holding a

'Victorian Christmas' themed evening on December 20 at 7.30pm.

It is hoped members and visitors will dress up and enjoy a sketch performed by committee members, together with carols, mince pies, and punch.

In the new year, we will be holding our coffee morning in Hope Church hall on January 26 when we will be welcoming members of Pencoed WI to pass on the 90th anniversary birthday book.

We will be open from 11am-1pm, when cakes, books, plants and crafts will be on sale - visitors welcome. TVB

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SCHOOLS PUT SMILE ON PUDSEY'S FACE

PRIMARY schools across Bridgend county borough showed their 'Pudsey Power' by raising hundreds of pounds for this year's Children in Need. Efforts included pyjama days, cake sales and talent competitions, with donations contributing to the record £26.8m raised by the event.

Among the schools taking part were St Robert's

Bridgend student shines for 'Team Wales' at skills show

COMPUTER wizard Andrew Bayliss (21) from Bridgend College, was highly-commended by judges for his impressive performance against challengers from across the UK during the prestigious WorldSkills UK championship in Birmingham last weekend.

Andrew demonstrated his skills in the advanced Microsoft IT technician category of the competition, which took place at the inaugural Skills Show in the National Exhibition Centre.

The honour success followed three days of competition during

which the young trainee was set a series of challenging tasks in order to demonstrate his skill against his peers from all across the UK.

The Bridgend student won his way through to the finals based on his outstanding performance in the Skills Competition Wales programme earlier this year.

Welsh representation at the Show also included students and apprentices in design, carpentry, automotive engineering, stained glass making, plumbing, plastering and industrial electronics. Some were from the Cardiff & Vale College.

Between them, Welsh competitors took a total of 15 medals, including five golds, three silvers and seven bronzes.

Catholic Primary in Aberkenfig, where the children raised a tremendous £160 by wearing Pudsey-inspired outfits.

Brackla Primary raised a brilliant £220.25. The children went to school in their pyjamas, spots or their own clothes and Pudsey's cafe was open for the children to buy a selection of yummy goodies.

Pupils and staff at Bryncethin School went to school wearing spotty clothes and raised £296 having a fun day, which included picture making, cake decorating and Pudsey games in the yard.

Bryntirion Infants also wore spotty clothes and made cakes, raising a magnificent £259.85 for charity.

In Cefn Glas, children at Cefn Glas Infants raised a fantastic £212 by wearing their pyjamas to school, while children at Llangewydd Juniors wore spotty outfits and jumped up and down during a 'Teacher's got Talent' show, raising £378.

A wear-your-pyjamas-to-school day was also held at Coety Primary in Coity, who raised a wonderful £182.50.

Children and staff at Corneli Primary had a very busy day in their spotty clothes and pyjamas, as the infants had fun in a Pudsey colouring and collage competition, while the juniors designed new friends for Pudsey and wrote Pudsey poems.

The school raised an excellent £144.56, had fun jumping and dancing to the CBBC Pudsey song, and had their message shown on TV.

Coychurch Primary raised £140 for Children in Need by wearing their pyjamas to school and enjoying a disco.

In Gilfach Goch, children at Abercridin Primary went to school wearing their pyjamas and also donated old toys for a bring and buy sale, raising a remarkable £363.32.

Children at Mynydd Cynffig Juniors did Kenfig Hill proud as they raised £295 with a pyjama day, cake sale and a 'Mynydd Cynffig has got Talent' contest.

FUNDRAISING

There were a lot of fundraising activities going on in the Llynfi Valley, with Llangynwyd, Plasnewydd and Nantyllyfyllon Primaries all getting involved. Children at Llangynwyd Primary raised £137.45 by wearing their pyjamas to school; Plasnewydd Primary raised £173 holding a 'P Factor' competition and disco, baking spotty cookies and wearing spotty clothes; and children at Nantyllyfyllon Primary dressed inside-out and back-to-front and sold cakes, raising an amazing £391.43.

Oldcastle Primary raised over £350 by dressing in their pyjamas and holding a cake sale while children at Pencoe Primary wore wacky wigs and crazy headgear to a non-uniform day, raising £100.

West Park Primary in Porthcawl raised £1,366.67 with a non-uniform day, X Factor competition and a variety of stalls.

The BBC's Children in Need programme has existed in a variety of formats stretching back over 50 years, but took the telethon format that is in place today in 1980.

It strives to provide every child in the UK with a safe, happy and secure childhood, allowing them the chance to reach their potential.

BBC rugby expert to speak at Mayor's charity dinner

THE Mayor of the county borough of Bridgend, Coun Marlene Thomas, is holding a 'nearly Christmas dinner' at the Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

The master of ceremonies will be Carwyn Jones AM, the First Minister, and it takes place on Friday,

November 30, 7pm for 7.30pm.

The guest speaker is Eddie Butler, broadcaster, commentator and historian.

Tickets are £25 per person, and for further information contact: M Major on 01656 664105.

Funds raised go to the Mayor's appeal, which supports local charities.

Laleston WI pass on the 90th anniversary celebration book

DUE to the absence of the president, Marilyn Davies, the November meeting was chaired by vice president, Helen Fry.

Helen Fry introduced the speakers – three very talented ladies, Lyn, Linda and Nita, to talk about their display of jewellery.

They also demonstrated their work on the lovely beaded necklaces, bracelets, earrings and watches.

They thoroughly enjoy their hobby and their presentation was much admired by all.

Since the meeting, 14 members had attended the Autumn Council Meeting. Next year will see the 90th anniversary of GFWI and a project of a celebration book is underway.

Each institute will produce a page about their own institute to be added to the book.

A programme for passing the book from institute to institute has been arranged and Laleston

received it from Merthyr Mawr and then passed it on to Pen-y-Fai. The latter event was carried out at a coffee morning on November 19.

The completed book will be ready for November 2013.

At the end of the meeting, president Jean Griffiths offered an invitation to join in their carol service on December 3.

The next Laleston meeting will be on December 5 – with carols and a Christmas party. JR

NEWS IN BRIEF

Santa on ice!

PORHCRAWL Lions have announced that this year, Santa has a brand new grotto, and will be in his ice house in the Y Centre, John Street, from 10am to 4pm every Saturday until Christmas. Entrance is £3 and "includes a "good, age-appropriate present".

Street surgeries

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES, MP for Ogmore, will hold street surgeries on Friday, November 30, 1pm-3pm and a drop-in session at Llanharan Drop-In Centre between 3pm-4pm.

SHOUT meeting

PORHCRAWL SHOUT Forum will hold a public on Friday, December 7, at 2pm with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira.

Coffee and mince pies at £2 per head available from 1pm prior to the meeting.



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FREE Father Christmas visit for the kids on the 1st & 2nd December (11am - 4pm) and complimentary mulled wine or coffee for adults.



LOCAL SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 30th ANNIVERSARY AT NORTH CORNELLY

RIGHT: The pupils in their World Book Day costumes.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THIS year, Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sgêr celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The Welsh medium primary school in North Cornelly serves the catchment area of Porthcawl, Nottage, Newton, Cornelly, Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr and was established in 1982.

It takes its name from the legend of 'The Maid of Sker', associated with Sker House, which stands about three or four miles away, across the sand dunes. Y

The school has grown from 30 pupils and three members of staff in 1982, to a pupil number of 250 and a staff of 25.

Until 1996, the school was on Cornelly Cross in the old school building on school road before being relocated to the current site in Greenfield Terrace.

A school spokesman said: "Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sgêr prides itself on its positive ethos and its cultural and linguistic tradition.

"The school has enjoyed many successes throughout its history, has a long-standing relationship with the 'Urdd' youth movement and has achieved significant

national success throughout its history by competing in eisteddfodau.

"This year promises to be another busy year with special events organised to celebrate the school's 30th birthday."

The school has just put together 'Sgwad Sgwennu Sgêr' – the school's pupil publicity council, who are all volunteer members and pupils in year 5 and 6.

Its aim is to publicise and raise the school's profile and, inspired by the television programme *Young Apprentice*, the members hold their own board



meetings. A spokesman said: "We are very proud of our school and are eager to share our successes with the community."

In the run-up to

Christmas, there will be a number of concerts in the school, and a major celebration concert is planned for next June, in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.



ABOVE: Cornelly Council School where Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sgêr first started life in 1982.



ABOVE: Members of the pupils publicity council – Sgwad 'Sgwennu Sgêr' – with teacher Mrs Delyth Nicholls



ABOVE: Early this year, pupils dressed in costumes from popular children's books to celebrate World Book Day, and took part in a tree planting ceremony to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Of 60 trees planted throughout Cornelly, Elan Homes donated three. In the photograph, above, are: Coun Jeff Tildesley; Coun Megan Butcher (chair of governors); Mrs Rhiannon Dixon (headteacher); Mr Gareth Davies (deputy headteacher); Ian Lavis, commercial director, Elan Homes, and Ms Emma Canton, sales executive, Elan Homes.



Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sgêr today in Greenfield Terrace, North Cornelly.

Youth Orchestra showcases talent

TALENTED young musicians from Bridgend Youth Orchestra hope to hit the right notes at two upcoming performances at Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen in Tondur.

The junior ensembles will perform on Friday, November 30, while senior ensembles, accompanied by Bridgend Youth Choir, will take to the stage on Friday, December 7. Both shows start at 6pm and are on the site of the former Ynysawdre Comprehensive.

Organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's children's directorate, both evenings will feature orchestras, string ensembles,

wind and junior big bands playing a varied programme of music, as well as some classic rock and pop.

There will also be plenty of Christmas songs to get audiences into the festive spirit. Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "It's a privilege to see our young musicians' development. Their enthusiasm and commitment is fantastic and listening to them in concert will be a real treat."

Tickets are £6.50/£3 concessions. For more information, or to buy tickets, contact Jeff Ryan on 01656 642658 or 07961 192408, or email: jeffrey.ryan@bridgend.gov.uk.

SANTA'S COMING TO

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GIVE THE GIFT OF YEAR ROUND PLAY THIS CHRISTMAS

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Santa's Coming to Bijou

Santa's Grotto -
£7/child £3 members
22nd & 23rd December
10-12pm (Advance booking recommended)

- Private family meetings with Santa in his grotto
- Framed photo with Santa (charged separately)
- Small gift for every child
- Play session at Bijou

Tea with Santa -
£12/person £9/member families
22nd & 23rd December from 12.30pm
Various afternoon sessions - advanced bookings required

- Christmas Tea
- Santa to visit every table
- Family framed photograph with Santa
- Sing-a-long Christmas carols with Santa
- Christmas Crackers and gift for every child
- Play session at Bijou

GREEN-FINGERED VOLUNTEERS GOING FOR GOLD!

RIGHT: Young volunteers are proud of the roundhouse they have helped to build.

A YOUNG volunteer group at Bryngarw Country Park has been embracing the Olympic legacy and showing that it isn't limited to just sport, carrying on the spirit from this summer's Games.

The Bryngarw Park Volunteer Group donate one Saturday a month to assisting the park rangers in a variety of tasks to preserve the park's natural environment.

The volunteers have recently been contributing to the latest phase of a nature garden development, which the rangers have been creating with their help for more than five years.

The latest phase has seen the volunteers and rangers building a 'roundhouse' structure, using materials from the park.

Funded by the Countryside Council for Wales and working in partnership with Llangynwyd-based community group, Cwm Tawel, the project aims



to give an understanding of the various uses of, and skills required for, working with natural materials gathered in the park.

Once completed, the temporary structure will be used as an outdoor classroom area until the end of its natural life.

The volunteers' next event will see them helping the rangers with a woodland management programme.

The woodland management event is taking place this Saturday between 10.30am-2.30pm, meeting at the park's visitor centre.

All tools and training will be provided, but suitable clothing and footwear must be worn.

Volunteers aged under 16 or anyone with special requirements should contact the rangers beforehand to discuss.

To get involved, or find out more about what the group has been getting up to, contact the park rangers at: bryngarwpark@bridgend.gov.uk.



Colwinston pupils go to town for Operation Christmas Child appeal

CHILDREN at St David's Church in Wales Primary School, Colwinston, recently supported the Operation Christmas Child campaign in its bid to deliver the 100 millionth gift-filled shoebox to a child in need.

The project certainly raised awareness of wider global issues, and children were pleased to have the opportunity to help other children who are less fortunate.



Dr Sara Hayes receives her flu jab from ABM immunisation co-ordinator, June Wheel.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Fulgo Developments – 106 Nolton Street, Bridgend – replacement signage.

Lloyds Banking Group – 19 Talbot Street, Maesteg – 1 x fascia, 2 x projectors and 1 x buckle (int. illuminated) and 7 x overlays, 2 x applied vinyls (non illuminated).

Robert Hitchings Ltd – Phase Two, Central Park, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend – construct 4 no. B1/B2/B8 industrial units with loading and storage areas, car parking, hard and soft landscaping.

Mr Carl Griffiths – 33 Llwyn y Groes, Broadlands – build retaining walls, level bund, create access steps and level existing garden.

Mr S Matthews – Plot r/o 35 Danygraig Avenue, Porthcawl – detached dwelling.

BCBC wellbeing directorate – Grand Pavilion, The Esplanade, Porthcawl – install fresh air inlets at ground and first floor level, including 18 aluminium grilles.

BCBC childrens directorate – Ynysawdre Comprehensive School, Heol yr Ysgol, Tondur – storage silo approx 9.72m high and 3.4m in diameter to store wood pellets as a fuel source for the school biomass boiler.

Mr Craig Kendall – 4 Dan yr Eglwys, Bettws – first floor flat roof extension and side extension to existing garage, convert garage to gym/store/playroom and new garage.

Mr Warren Videan – 79 Castle Street, Maesteg – retention of beauty salon use and proposed laser beauty treatment use.

Bridgend CBC – Maesteg Welfare Park off Neath Road, Maesteg – timber bridge crossing Nant y Crymwydd.

Mr and Mrs J Beale – 12 The Retreat, Porthcawl – retrospective planning application for a garage.

Livos Energy Limited – Land at Ty Tanglwyst Dairy, Pyle – screening option for proposed single wind turbine.

HD Limited – land r/o The Toll House, off Derwen Road, Bridgend – temporary (five year) pay and display

car park and bin store, with courtyard external works and service yard to elder mews.

Mr A D Hookings – 35 Mill View, Maesteg – two single storey extensions and remove existing attached garage.

Mr Nigel Thomas – 2 Eustace Drive, Sarn – erection of detached dwelling.

Mr Jeff Lounders – 2 Joslin Road, Litchard – single storey extension and loft conversion to bedroom.

Persimmon Homes Ltd – Land at Parc Derwen, Coity – extend time to submit reserved matters for P/00/288/OUT for additional five years affecting footpath 17 Coity Higher.

Mr L Davies – 8 Bracken Way, Litchard – single storey rear extension.

HD Limited – Cae Court, 12 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – proposed verandah (listed building consent).

Mr B Hooper – 10 Rogers Lane, Laleston – first floor side extension and single storey rear extension.

BCBC childrens directorate – Bryncethin Primary School, Hong Kong Terrace, Bryncethin – single storey early years unit (nursery/reception ancillary accommodation) and additional car parking.

Mr Andrew Hobbs – 18 Riverside, Aberkenfig – single storey living area to rear, extend garage length, new retaining wall and external chimney stack.

Mr David Lloyd – 1 Woodland Way, Sarn – rear single storey extension.

Mr David Thomas – Bethania House, Bryncethin – sun room.

Mr and Mrs Murphy – Orchard Cottage, Church Street, Porthcawl – demolish existing lean-to and glasshouse and construct new conservatory.

Quiz League round-up

ON Monday, November 19, it was Pheasant Poachers' misfortune to meet leaders Llangynwydd Arms in their current superb form, and have salt rubbed into their already deep wounds by a 53-32 defeat.

Two other first division matches had close finishes: Tondur Railway Club just got home by 40-38 away to Tyrisha Royals.

Tyrisha Nomads guessed right on the last question while, at 38-37 up, Crown Inn 'A' guessed wrong, Nomads won 39-37.

In the other Division One game, Six Bells got their first win of the season, coming away winners from

Mackworth Arms, who were a bit below par, by 36-25.

In Division Two, Greenmeadow deprived Cabo Roche of the chance to consolidate second place.

After the written section, they had a narrow lead, and a rare, good individual round saw them go eight up, which they stretched to 12 on the run-in, winning 52-40.

Crown Inn 'B' are now lying second through a thumping 51-33 win against Pheasant Gamekeepers.

The remaining two games both ended in away wins. Oldcastle 'B' won 48-43 at Laleston Inn 'A', and Pyle RFC lost 34-32 to Laleston Inn 'B'.

Here are your four specials:

1) Which European war was ended by the

Treaty of Westphalia in the 17th century, marking the end of the supremacy of the Holy Roman Empire?

2) Who are the two US Presidents who served a full term of four years but failed to get elected for a second term?

3) Which Welshman scored 41 points for the Lions in just three Tests against South Africa in 1997?

4) The flag of which South American country consists of two pale blue horizontal stripes on either side of a white one with a radiant yellow sun in the middle?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
(4) Argentina.
(3) Neil Jenkins.
(2) James Carter and George Bush Senior.
(1) 30 Years War.

Ladies Guild's 50th birthday

ST DAVIDS Ladies Guild, Nottage, held their 50th anniversary lunch at Fairways, Porthcawl, on November 1, with a cake, a raffle and the gift of a pen to members to mark the special day, which some founder members also attended.

The guild meets monthly and raises money for charity.

The next event is a carol service on December 20, open to all, at St Davids Church, Nottage, at 7.30pm. The collection is for the Noah's Ark appeal.

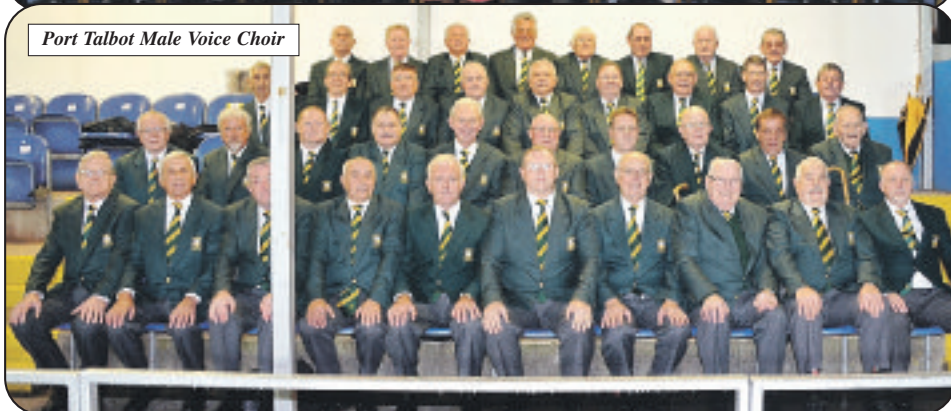
Did you know you can read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

Choirs will add light relief to a very serious message

Porthcawl Male Voice Choir.



Port Talbot Male Voice Choir



Report and pictures by
KEITH E MORGAN



Andy Thomas, consultant urology surgeon at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

PORTHCAWL and Port Talbot Male Voice Choirs are to take part in 'Men Talking' workshops, tackling the serious subject of prostate and testicular cancer using music, humour and stories.

The 'Give 1,000 Welshmen a Voice' programme was launched at the Senedd earlier this year, hosted by David Melding, the Deputy Presiding Officer and supported by cross-party Assembly members. Porthcawl and Port Talbot choirs sang at the launch event in Cardiff Bay.

The workshops will

feature heart-warming stories of Welsh real-life cancer survivors, while GPs and health professionals will attend to answer questions from the audience.

The workshops are being staged by Men Talking of Cardiff, whose directors Dominic Rai and Richard Dunning want to reduce the number of unnecessary deaths from prostate and testicular cancer every year that happen simply because men are reluctant to go to their doctors with their worries.

Prof Malcolm Mason, a prostate cancer expert of Cardiff University, says that the Men Talking workshops will add something unique to work going on in the NHS.

Andy Thomas, a consultant urology surgeon at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, has also given his full support to the project: "I am confronted on a daily basis by the lethal effects of the late diagnosis of cancer, particularly among men.

"If prostate and testicular cancers are identified in the early stages, then survival rates are very good. Often though, many men ignore the danger signs and choose not to visit their doctors.

"The Men Talking workshops are a great way to spread the message and to persuade men to open up about their health problems and I think it could make a real difference."

Further information can be obtained from info@mentalking.co.uk.

'Can I be your Sonny boy?'



"HELLO, my name is Sonny, and I am looking for a loving home to spend my twilight years, after living with my previous owner since I was three years old.

"I am a very adaptable cat with a confident and affectionate personality. I do have my funny ways sometimes, just like any other cat.

"I do love to curl up on a warm lap and snooze most days when it is cold outside.

"My only item on my Christmas list is a new home.

"So if you would like to meet me, please come and say hello!"

Contact Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ; telephone 01656 726 621, fax 01656 722 012; email bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk; website <http://bridgend.cats.org.uk>; or visit our pages at www.facebook.com/cpbri dgend.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Community order given to 'vulnerable person' over drugs

A "VULNERABLE PERSON" has been sentenced to a community order at Cardiff Crown Court for drugs offences.

Laney Brockwell (21) had admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply, and offering to supply the drug.

The community order will run for a year, and Judge Neil Bidder also imposed a supervision order for a year and directed that Brockwell, of Heol Las, North Cornelly, carry out 80 hours unpaid work.

The judge said that Brockwell had been running a small-scale operation with a relatively modest amount of cannabis.

"You offered to supply about 10 people. This was almost a question of sharing between users, and could hardly be described as a retail business."

He said that the last thing that Brockwell should have been doing was taking drugs, because there had been mental health problems.

"I consider you are a vulnerable person", said the Judge.

Cash of £1,610 found in the possession of Brockwell was ordered to be forfeited.

Prosecutor David Thomas said that on April 25, police officers executed a search warrant at Brockwell's home.

There, they found cannabis with a value of up to £1,300.

On Brockwell's mobile phone were texts indicating he had offered to supply a small circle.

His counsel, Byron Broadstock, suggested that the court take recommendation of a community order which was in a pre-sentence report.

Brockwell was said to have no previous convictions.

Bridgend Magistrates criticised for not sentencing local man

A JUDGE at Cardiff Crown Court has criticised Bridgend Magistrates for committing an Aberkenfig man for sentence on a series of drugs charges.

Judge Neil Bidder said the Magistrates were wrong in committing Anthony Hooper (29) for sentence.

"It was well within the magistrates' sentencing powers," said Judge Bidder.

Hooper, of Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, had admitted possessing amphetamine and being concerned in the supply of it.

He was jailed for six weeks. The judge said: "You are not involved in drugs trafficking your-

self. Unfortunately, you have been incapable of benefiting from community orders imposed in the past and you have suffered from depression, contributed by tragic events in your own life."

He said there was no alternative but custody.

Prosecutor Nicholas Gedge said that on July 15, police received reports of Hooper behaving bizarrely, which led to him being apprehended.

He appeared to be incoherent.

He told officers he was in possession of amphetamine, and pointed to his groin.

Plastic bags of the drug were found in the waistband of his trousers. He denied sell-

ing drugs, but admitted supplying a neighbour.

He was said to have convictions for theft, wounding, and possessing class A drugs.

Owen Williams, defending, said his use of amphetamine had got out of control.

In the past, he said, his life had been chaotic but he was now motivated to address his misuse of drugs, and now had a significant relationship with someone who didn't take drugs.

"He wants to change his lifestyle," said Mr Williams.

Said the Judge: "I hope your new partner provides you with the motive to stop taking drugs."

Men urged to 'take responsibility' for stamping out abuse

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon last week took part in a parliamentary event to promote the White Ribbon Campaign (www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk), which aims to ensure that men take more responsibility for reducing the level of violence against women.

White Ribbon Day, November 25, is recognised as United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the MP stressed: "In entering Parliament in order to make the Bridgend constituency a better place, there is no more important way than to



Mrs Moon MP, and the white ribbon.

do this than by working to eliminate violence against women.

"In my constituency work, I come across many cases of abuse, both physical and mental, and I am a keen supporter of local organisations such as Bridgend

Women's Aid. However, it is important that men take an active role in the campaign.

"On my visits to schools in the community, I will seek to challenge discriminatory attitudes and promote healthy relationships."

She added: "It is a sad reflection of our times that 42 per cent of young people know girls whose boyfriends hit them, and that 40 per cent know girls whose boyfriends have coerced or pressurised them to have sex.

"The campaign is not just about wearing a white ribbon on November 25, it's about all men questioning their attitudes and doing their bit to reduce domestic violence."

WHAT'S ON/ in brief

Pencoed fayre
PENCOED RFC is holding a Christmas craft fayre on Saturday, December 8, (10am-3.30pm). Entry is free and there is ample parking, with refreshments available all day at Felindre Road.

There will be a good range of handmade craft stalls and home produce available.

For further information, contact Michelle Halse on 01656 860152.

Tabernacl concert
TABERNACL Music Society's next concert will be a performance of *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* - by Karl Jenkins.

Written to mark the Millennium, it depicts

the horrors and terrible consequences of war, and ends with a hope for lasting peace and reconciliation.

Also in the programme will be two of Handel's Coronation Anthems: *Zadok the Priest and Let Thy Hand be Strengthened*, and Albinoni's *Adagio for Organ and Strings* performed by the choir's resident accompanist, Steven Burges.

The choir and orchestra will be conducted as usual by their musical director, Kevin Adams, on Sunday, December 9, (7.30pm) in Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend. Contact 07974 765578.

NHS changes:
drop-in day

IN response to demand for more public infor-

mation on drop-in days over NHS changes, another date has been added to the engagement calendar on Monday, December 10 (4pm-8pm) in Sarn Life Centre, Bridgend, CF32 9SW.

For more details, see www.changingforthebetter.org.uk

Hall concert
YNYSAWDRE Village Hall presents an evening with the Maesteg Children's Choir, under musical director Enid Sian Hughes and accompanist Rhianon Williams-Hale, on Friday, December 14, at 7pm.

Admission is £5, including homemade refreshments. For tickets, contact Mair Norton on 01656 722115.

PUPILS ENJOY THEIR INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE'S WORLD



ABOVE:
An animated crowd scene as the pupils get involved in the action.

RECENTLY, years 3-4 of St David's Church in Wales Primary School were lucky enough to work with Yvonne Murphy, theatre director with Omidaze Drama Company, who went through a range of drama activities, culminating in the re-enacting of *Romeo and Juliet*.

"I never knew Shakespeare could be so much fun!" said one of the pupils – thoughts echoed by class teacher Janis Ellis.

"The children had an excellent introduction to Shakespeare through Yvonne's workshops, which has definitely whetted their appetite to find out more about his writing."

"We are studying the Tudors and Stuarts at the moment, so the theme of the day complemented our learning."

"Also thanks to parent, Mrs Susie Fryar, who proved a dab hand with the camera!"



BELOW: A death scene in rehearsal – probably *Romeo*?



Calls for volunteers

THE Marie Curie Cancer Care is appealing for volunteers to join its Bridgend and Porthcawl fundraising group of volunteers, to meet on a monthly basis and undertake activities such

as the Great Daffodil Appeal, Blooming Great Tea Party and promotion of local events.

All funds raised by the group helps the charity's registered nurses and healthcare assistants to provide home nursing

care for patients with terminal cancer and other illnesses.

The charity's community fundraiser, Hannah Leckie, said: "We really want to raise awareness of the fantastic work being done by our nurses in the community in Bridgend and Porthcawl by increasing the numbers in this fundraising group."

"Marie Curie Nurses help not only patients but the whole family at a time that is very distressing – giving people the choice to spend their final days at home with loved ones is the main aim of Marie Curie Cancer Care."

"Through joining a local fundraising group, you can help to raise the vital funds and awareness that are so needed here in Bridgend and Porthcawl."

For more information, call community fundraiser Hannah Leckie on 01792 461435 or email hannah.leckie@mariecurie.org.uk.

initiatives – to set up a weekly Food Co-op as a service to the local community.

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Christian charity Samaritan's Purse, which has been co-ordinating the sending of gift-filled shoeboxes around the world since 1990s.

The community food co-operative programme is funded by the Welsh Government and helps people get fresh fruit and vegetables on a weekly basis at wholesale prices.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

from 3pm-4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon.

Junior school MANY congratulations to the following pupils at Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing staff at the school last week:

Brooke Rees Simcock – class 1, Ellis Peart – class 2, Ewan Flower – class 3, Beth O'Neill – class 4, Mia Watson – class 5, Molly Leyland – class 6 and Isabel Ellwood – class 7. The headteacher's award went to Jacob Hesketh – class 7.

The following pupils also joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour: Mia Lunn, Chloe Knott, Leah Knott, Ffion Clarke, Charlotte Edmonds, Niamh O'Halloran, Liam Evans, Lik To Chung, Briney Griffiths and Scott Romanis.

Thanks to everyone's generosity in supporting the BBC Children in Need Appeal last Friday. The pyjama day and

cake sale raised a fantastic total of £295.

The school also held a 'Mynydd Cynffig Has Got Talent' contest after lunch on the same day, with Alex Underhill, Thomas Llewellyn, Mark Underhill and Ben Evans chosen as the winners by the pupils for their original dance-rap called 'Pudsey Style'.

Friends of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School will be holding their Christmas fair and raffle in the school tomorrow, Friday November 30, at 3.30pm.

The school choir have been invited to perform at the following events in the run-up to Christmas: Sunday, December 2 – candlelit service for Cancer Research UK at All Saints Church, Porthcawl at 4pm; Wednesday, December 5 – Civic Offices, Bridgend from 10.30am-11am.

Pisgah Chapel MEMBERS of the community are invited to go along this evening (Thursday) at 7pm to see the completed renovations of

the vestry.

All money raised from the sale of cakes and refreshments during the evening will go to the Macmillan organisation.

On Monday, December 10, the Pisgah Chapel carol concert will be held at 7pm. Choirs from all the local schools will be joining the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir for an evening of song. With the 200 voices of the choirs and a congregation of around 400, it will be a night to remember.

A collection will be taken during the interval, which will be donated to worthy causes. For more information, ring Rhian on 01656 744772, or Karen on 01656 740684.

Family support HOME Start is a small Bridgend-based charity who provides support and friendship for families.

Having lost their main funding, they now have to operate with part-time staff and volunteers. They are now looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours a week, either in the daytime or evening, to befriend a family and offer support.

They are hoping to start a new preparation course in January 2013.

To find out more, visit: www.homestart-bridgend.co.uk, or call Lesley Evatt on 01656 668111.

Former football star backs councillors' Movember efforts



Former Wales international John Hartson (centre) with Movember councillors.

EX-WELSH international footballer John Hartson has lent his support to the Bridgend county borough councillors taking part in this year's Movember campaign.

John took time out of his busy schedule to support councillors David White, Craig Jones, David Owen, Peter Foley, Haydn Morgan and Luke Ellis, who have all pledged to ditch the razor and grow moustaches in support of the national prostate and testicular cancer awareness campaign. John set up the John

Hartson Foundation following his battle with testicular cancer, which spread to his brain and left him fighting for life, said: "It's really important for men to check themselves regularly for any signs or symptoms of testicular cancer, and the Movember campaign is a fantastic way of getting that message across in a fun, light-hearted way."

"It's great to see the local councillors getting involved."

"I set up the John Hartson Foundation following my illness to raise awareness of the disease and help people who have been affected by cancer, and their

families. We're grateful for the fantastic support we've already had and I'd love the people of Bridgend to join us on our BraveHart Ben Nevis Challenge, when we walk up Britain's highest mountain next July to raise vital funds for the foundation."

Coun Haydn Morgan, who represents the Morfa ward, said: "To have someone as high profile as John support

our efforts is fantastic. His story and his ongoing work through the John Hartson Foundation is a real inspiration and has motivated us all to work extra hard to promote the Movember messages for the next two weeks."

To find out more about the campaign visit: www.uk.movember.com.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Christmas Shoebox Appeal is supported by Ogmore MP

ST ILLTYD'S Church in Llanharry has supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal for a number of years and this year had the support of the local primary school, as well as Huw Irranca-Davies, MP for Ogmore, who recently visited the church to show his support for the appeal and the work of the church in co-ordinating it.

He also expressed his support, via Twitter, for another of St Illtyd's new

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



School award
LAST week, I attended assembly at Tynyrheol Primary School. There was a presentation of a book to the most improved readers in each class and I saw the joy on their faces.

Mr Martin Griffiths, the headteacher, said the school had achieved the distinction of winning its second green flag, awarded to schools in Wales for looking after the school grounds and the environment.

He thanked everyone, including members of staff, Mrs Grabham (Eco co-ordinator) and Mrs Christine Jones, and Eco committee members: year 3 – Tygan Crocker and Ellie Street; year 4 – Millie Loosmore and Tyler Williams; year 5 – Rhian Jeremy and Charlotte Wong; year 6 – Ioan Davies and Teyah Jones.

The headteacher also thanked pupils, parents and staff who raised the magnificent sum of £62.50 for the BBC's 'Children in Need' campaign, Kraig Pook for raising the fantastic amount of £227 in the Cardiff half marathon;

and everyone who took part in the recent 'Reading Showdown' which raised an amazing £813 for school funds.

Home Start

HOME START, Bridgend, helps families with young children through one-to-one support and home visits.

Home Start Bridgend is looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours a week, either in the daytime or evening to befriend a family and offer support and plans to start a new preparation course in January.

For more information, telephone 01656 668111, email homesstartbridge@btconnect.com or check the website www.homesstartbridge.co.uk.

Aberkenfig WI

ABERKENFIG and **District Women's Institute** is designing a tree for the Christmas tree exhibition in Wesley Methodist Church, Tondy, decorated with snowmen made by members, fairy lights and baubles.

The Christmas trees will feature in the annual carol concert in the church on December 12.

Taking part will be the Tondy Wesley choir and children from local

schools.

Aberkenfig WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. New members and visitors are always sure of a warm welcome. Further details from Mrs Pat Lewis, secretary on 01656 721933, or at www.cobwebs.co.uk

Going green!

YESTERDAY (November 28) Tondy Primary School pupils wore green clothes, to raise awareness of the need to protect the rainforests.

They also planted young saplings in the school grounds, as part of tree planting week. Mrs Susan Pilcher, the headteacher, thanked everyone for their contribution towards the BBC's 'Children in Need' appeal, which raised the grand total of £496.66; also, the PTA for organising the raffle, and Mrs Webb for making wonderful 'spotty' cakes!

The PTA will be holding the school's Christmas fair next Thursday (December 6) in the Meadow Street building's school hall at 3.30pm. The school choir will be singing Christmas

carols and Father Christmas will be at the door to greet everyone.

There will be plenty of stalls to provide interest and year-6 pupils will run a toy and book stall and are asking children to donate unwanted items.

Every pupil will be at the pantomime *Dick Whittington* on Wednesday, December 12.

The school choir will be singing in the carol concert at Tondy Wesley Methodist church at 6.30pm on December 12.

Brackla concert

THERE is a Christmas concert at Brackla Tabernacle Chapel this evening from 6.45pm, to raise funds for the visually impaired in Bridgend.

Guest artists taking part include a harp duo, year-11 pupils at Ysgol

Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Lowri Foster-Davies and Niamh Reese.

Also appearing are 'The Heavenly', ladies choral group from Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr and Tremains Junior school choir, and a junior brass band ensemble formed by nine students at Bridgend secondary schools, including two percussionists.

On Saturday, December 1, the chapel in Whitethorn Drive is holding a Christmas Fair between 12 noon and 5pm, craft and gift market, with various stalls.

The money raised will help the charity Bridgend Food Bank, members of the chapel who have financial difficulties, and youth programmes organised by the chapel.

Choir sings

TOMORROW evening (November 30) there will be a concert at Y nysawdre Community Centre, starting at 7pm, with entertainment provided by the Ogmere Valley Male Choir.

Festive airs

BRACKLA Community Centre will be hosting a Christmas concert by the Brackla community chorus mixed voice choir on November 30 at 7pm. Guest artists will be an ensemble from the Archbishop McGrath Roman Catholic School.

The choir will also be taking part in a Christmas concert in Heol-y-Cyw chapel on Sunday, December 9.

Silver Band

IF anyone likes to listen to brass band music, pop along to Seasons on Brynmenyn industrial estate where the Pencoed Silver band will be playing on December 1, 2, 8 and 9, around midday.

Toys appeal

MAESTEG Salvation Army, with the co-operation of Maesteg Comprehensive School, has organised a concert in the school hall to raise money and donate toys to the West Glamorgan coun-

cil on alcohol and drug abuse, which is appealing for Christmas presents for needy children in the area.

The concert tomorrow (November 30) starts at 7.15pm, and has a number of local choirs appearing including Nantfyllon Primary School, Maesteg Children's Choir and Noteworthy mixed voice, with music provided by the Salvation Army band.

There will also be solo performances by the various schools for the Children in Need appeal included: St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary - £160; Abercledin Primary (Gilfach Goch) - £363.32; Brackla Primary - £220.25; Bryncethin Primary - £296; Bryntrinion infants - £259.85; Cefn Glas infants - £212; Llangewydd juniors - £378; Coity Primary - £182.50; Coychurch Primary - £140; Corneli Primary - £144.56; Mynydd Cynffig juniors - £295; Llangynwyd Primary - £137.45; Nantfyllon primary - £391.43; Plasnewydd Primary - £173; Oldcastle Primary - £350; Pencoed Primary - £100; West Park Primary (Porthcawl) - £1,366.67.

The concert will be sponsored by Co-op Funeral Care in Bridgend, and tickets will be £6 adults, £3 children. There will be a refund of £2 to every adult who donates a toy or (hopefully) toys.

Carers' support

BRIDGEND Carers' Centre supports people who look after parents, disabled children, friends or neighbours.

It is based at 87 Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479).

TOMORROW (November 30), the centre will be holding a 'Carers' Rights Day' and the year's theme will be 'Getting Help in Tough Times', starting at 10am.

Also present will be Ogmere MP Huw Irran-Davies and the Mayor of Bridgend county Coun Marlene Thomas. There will be a lunch and entertainment



Aberkenfig and District WI with the members involved in decorating the Christmas tree for Tondy Methodist church.

afterwards by the ladies choir Cantorian Tir Iarl.

Children in Need

DESPITE gloomy news about the economy, the generosity of people in the Bridgend area amazes me.

Amounts raised by the various schools for the Children in Need appeal included: St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary - £160; Abercledin Primary (Gilfach Goch) - £363.32; Brackla Primary - £220.25; Bryncethin Primary - £296; Bryntrinion infants - £259.85; Cefn Glas infants - £212; Llangewydd juniors - £378; Coity Primary - £182.50; Coychurch Primary - £140; Corneli Primary - £144.56; Mynydd Cynffig juniors - £295; Llangynwyd Primary - £137.45; Nantfyllon primary - £391.43; Plasnewydd Primary - £173; Oldcastle Primary - £350; Pencoed Primary - £100; West Park Primary (Porthcawl) - £1,366.67.

Double date

NOTE WORTHY mixed voice choir was set up originally to raise money for cancer research. It has 25 members, and its musical director is renowned musician, Ryan Wood, from Maesteg.

The choir will perform at the Christmas tree festival in St Mary's Church, Nolton, on Saturday, December 8.

Contact Lisa on 01656 737923 or the parish office on 01656 667690 for tickets.

The choir is also performing in the charity concert at Maesteg Comprehensive School tomorrow (November 30).

Classical surprise for local MP!



CLASSICAL music sessions and philosophy surprised Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon when visiting Porthcawl Primary School to meet the pupils last week.

The MP said: "I visited the school to meet Mr Woods, headteacher, to congratulate everyone for achieving the NAACE prestigious ICT award. This award is given after extensive external assessment and is a major

achievement for Porthcawl Primary School.

"I was invited by Mr Richards, teacher of year-6, to observe his literacy lesson and listen to his pupils read their work.

"I was very impressed with their complete focus on their work, while listening to classical music and then hearing their creative story sentences.

"I was surprised and commended them on hearing that philosophy had become part of their weekly curriculum and how they

were enjoying the art of discussing what we are about, reality and existence.

"I also visited Miss Bowen's year-5 class who were equally as impressive reading their creative writing. I took part in a Q&A session with them where they asked questions about my role as an MP and the job I do.

"The suggestion of a parliamentary debate between the two classes was met with great enthusiasm and plans are afoot to do that early next year."

Local art society's Christmas exhibition

PORHCRAWL Art Society's Christmas exhibition will be held on December 1 at 10.30am-4pm.

It will be opened with a coffee morning, coffee and cake, 75p.

Weather permitting, we will also show paintings outside.

The venue is the Old Police Station, John Street, Porthcawl.

RT



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Ella's picture at centre of road safety campaign

ARTWORK from a pupil at Ysgol Gymraeg Pen y Garth in Penarth is set to become the central part of a road safety campaign across the Vale.

More than 100 children from 34 schools in the Vale entered a competition to design a poster warning drivers of the dangers of parking close to school crossings, but eight-year-old Ella Handley's brightly coloured picture with the slogan 'Park Away: Make our DAY!' was the one to scoop top prize.

'Parcio'n bell: Dan ni'n teimlo'n WELL' was the one to scoop top prize. Allan Everett from competition sponsor CelticAsh, a joint venture between Lafarge and RWE, said the company got involved in the campaign because, as for many industrial businesses operating in the Vale, road safety was top of mind.

"CelticAsh are constantly alert to the need to drive as safely as possible, especially when we go through towns or villages where there are schools," he explained.

"So this is a message not just for us but for all drivers - parking near school crossings reduces



Winner Ella Handley (front, holding picture) is congratulated by (back row) John Rogers, road safety officer, Vale Council; Allan Everett, director, CelticAsh; Coun Lis Burnett, Vale Council cabinet member for development services; and Clare Cameron, Vale Council's principal transport and road safety officer. Around Ella are the newly appointed junior road safety officers from Ysgol Pen y Garth.

visibility and therefore increases risk.

"We hope that when drivers see Ella's posters, they will both approach with caution and park carefully, helping to make sure children can come and go from school as safely as possible."

John Rogers, road safety officer at the Vale

Council, added that overall, road safety had improved in the area in recent years, but simple steps like parking away from schools or even not taking the car at all could help reduce accidents further.

He said: "Parking next to crossings means drivers can't see children and children can't see

approaching vehicles. Hopefully, this campaign will make people think before they park."

Ella's picture will feature on four of the 10 banners produced, but the others will also feature pictures from the runners up: Lowri and Rhianna Reynolds from St David's Church in Wales Primary School,

Colwinston; the junior road safety officers from Victoria Primary School, Penarth; and Molly Macklen from Peterston-super-Ely Primary School.

The banners will be shared over the schools in the area and changed frequently to keep the message fresh.

Ramblers follow the River Wye through an historic setting

ON a dry morning, 11 Penarth and District Ramblers joined William for a tramp through part of the stunning Wye Valley - beginning from Ross-on-Wye, the historic market town on the Welsh border.

By bridge, the group crossed to Wilton, which grew up around a ford and was subject to continual flooding, so people chose to live on the higher ground that most of Ross is built on.

Prior to the railways being built, materials were transported by boat on the navigable River Wye, but the large number of fish and mill weirs caused problems.

Following the west bank of the River Wye, which rises on the slopes of Plynlimon in the Cambrian Mountains on its journey down through Rhayader, Builth Wells, Hay-on-Wye and Hereford to reach Ross, they stopped to enjoy morning coffee and a spot of bird-watching.

Continuing the journey along the riverbank, brilliant views towards Goodrich Castle were enjoyed.

This lovely old red sandstone castle was destroyed following a long siege in the 1640s

during the Civil War when the Royalist Sir Henry Lingen was forced to surrender because of lack of food, water and gun powder.

Crossing Kerne Bridge where the village was originally known as 'the Querne', but changed its name after the road bridge was built in 1828, the group passed the old railway station, a relic of the Ross and Monmouth line.

Following part of the long-distance Wye Valley Walk, they began the climb through the woods at Leys Hill, stopping in Bulls Hill Wood for lunch, surrounded by autumnal leaves.

Passing Coughton Mill, a long climb through the ancient Chase Wood followed and, stopping at the top to regain their breath, they headed downhill

through Merrivale Wood, which has probably survived because it is situated on a steep rocky slope, which is unsuitable for agricultural use.

Making their way to the outskirts of Ross-on-Wye, past some impressive Victorian Villas, the group returned to their cars for the journey home.

Please note the replacement walk in the programme: on December 1, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre to share transport to Libanus in order to catch the 9.40am bus back to Llwyn-On, and an 11.5-mile moderate/hard linear walk over the central Beacons back to Libanus.

For further information, call Phil on 01446 711533.

JOY STRANGWARD

Playgroup raffle

ABRACADABRA playgroup in Welsh St Donats is fundraising, and will be holding a raffle on December 14.

The prizes will be from local artists, meals at pubs, hair cuts and more. The group is contacting business to get more prizes.

A spokesperson said: "We are going to sell tickets through various outlets including some establishments in Barry, Cowbridge and the Vale."

Save 1/3

Waitrose Belgian chocolate assortment 315g
~~£8.99~~ £5.99

Waitrose
 Giving more this Christmas

New planning policy aims to raise cash for infrastructure

THE Vale Council is to use recent Government legislation to raise cash from new developments and spend it on improved infrastructure.

This new policy, called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), will have to be incorporated into the Vale Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), which will set out policy for the period 2011 to 2026.

Speaking to The

GEM, the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said that it could raise £40 million over a 15-year period.

At the moment, the council enters into legal agreements with developers under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to seek contributions for facilities such as transport, open space, public art and education.

However, these have to be spent close to the development.

Coun Moore said that the council would, in con-

trast, be able to put CIL money in a central pot and spend it where it was most needed.

It was on April 6, 2010, that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations 2010 came into force.

It is intended that Section 106 agreements will now, in part, be replaced with the CIL.

The Vale Council started preparatory work on introducing the levy in February 2011 and work on it is running in parallel with the revised planning of the LDP.

In a recent report to the Vale Council cabinet, members were told that "work is being undertaken in tandem with the preparation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) and it is envisaged that the LDP and CIL Inquiries may run concurrently. At present it is anticipated this will be during 2014."

Director of development services Rob Thomas said: "A decision regarding whether to publish and consult on CIL at the same time as the LDP will depend on progress on the LDP."

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

He said that it made sense to do so, if possible, and that the same inspector could examine each plan, but that it would depend on the timing.

The report said that it was estimated that CILs could raise around £40 million from residential developments alone throughout the plan period, and this could be spent on infrastructure.

Additional income could be raised from commercial developments as well.

The word 'infrastructure' can include a number of areas, including: roads and other transport facilities; flood defences; schools and other educational facilities; medical facilities; sporting and recreational areas; and open spaces.

The CIL regulations currently exclude affordable housing, so that would need to be funded through Section 106 agreements.

Section 106 agreements will continue to apply for on site 'in kind' facilities such as open space and public art.

The Vale Council will have to come up with infrastructure priorities, so that it is clear where CIL will be spent and in what order, although the availability of funding from other sources will be a factor.

A CIL working group will be looking at this.

In a recent report to cabinet, it was stated that the introduction of CIL will require a "significant input of staff time throughout the council".

Consultants have already been appointed to carry out a viability study of development in the Vale for CIL, at a cost of £20,000 plus VAT.

Transport consultants will shortly be invited to tender to undertake a transport assessment of developments likely to come forward.

The Government's planning advice portal says that "Most buildings that people normally use will be liable to pay the levy, but buildings into which people do not normally go, and buildings into which people go only intermittently for the purpose of

inspecting or maintaining fixed plant or machinery, will not be liable to pay the levy.

"Structures which are not buildings, such as pylons and wind turbines, will not be liable to pay the levy."

"Any new build - that is a new building or an extension - is only liable for the levy if it has 100 square metres, or more, of gross internal floor space, or involves the creation of one dwelling, even when that is below 100 square metres."

It adds: "The Community Infrastructure Levy must be levied in pounds per square metre of floorspace arising from any chargeable development."

"The charge will be applied to the gross floorspace of most new buildings or extensions to existing buildings."

The GEM asked the Vale Council for an idea of how much CIL would be raised from a sample dwelling - for instance, a three-bedroom house.

Rob Thomas said: "At this stage it is impossible to provide an estimate because the viability evidence is

currently being prepared.

"The rate will be charged on a £ per sqm basis (as opposed to a percentage) and the average size for a three-bed dwelling in the Vale is around 88sqm."

The CIL schedules elsewhere in the UK

range from £0-£575 per sqm for residential rates, but generally average around £100 per sqm.

"If this translates to the Vale, then we can expect an average three-bed house to provide £8,800 in CIL revenue."

TO LET BY INFORMAL TENDER

**Former Changing Rooms,
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- Ground Floor Former Changing Rooms
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Applications for Tender documents are now invited from interested parties. Closing date for receipt of completed tenders' documents is 12 noon, Thursday 20th December 2012.

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Sian Cornwell-Shaw,
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The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Civic Offices, Holton Road,
Barry CF63 4RU.
Tel: 01446 709335/709756

E-Mail: delacey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



WINDSOR HOTEL

Friday 30th November
Rob Barbour
Live from 9pm

Saturday 1st December
Wales v Australia
2pm - Free Beef Curry & Chips at Half Time

Sunday 2nd December
The Navigators

Sunday 9th December
Too Toned - Live Ska Band

Sunday 16th December
Freeway

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Live Band - Rock House
Free Entry

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BCBC deny Porthcawl regeneration has stalled following AM's comments

BRIDGEND County Borough Council has hit back at an AM's comments claiming that Porthcawl was being left "in limbo" over its regeneration, saying "still very much ongoing".

Regional Welsh Conservative AM Suzy Davies claimed that not enough was being done to move the town forward after visiting traders and residents

to talk about what's happening in the town, which BCBC duly denied.

It stated that although Tesco's withdrawal from the building plans had been "frustrating", the council had already formed alternative arrangements.

The regional AM for South Wales West said: "Action is needed now to revamp the town. It's no good waiting for the regeneration scheme to materialise - 10 years have already been

wasted and nothing has happened."

Mrs Davies wanted to meet traders in the wake of the launch of the party's policy document, called: 'A Vision for the Welsh High Street', which includes ideas for regenerating town centres like Porthcawl.

"I was keen to hear what their thoughts are and one thing that came up was the poor state of the Hillsboro Place car park, which is something that needs to be tackled.

"It presents a hazard to anyone trying to push a wheelchair or pram, and the poor surface wrecks the heels of your shoes.

"Speaking as Shadow Welsh Tourism Minister, I have to say that this presents a very poor image to visitors coming to the resort. You only get one chance to make a first impression.

"Also, there are no signs in the car park directing people to John Street. People have to walk through a back lane to access the town centre. It's not much of a welcome."

Mrs Davies said that nothing had been done to the car park for years because it was pivotal to the

regeneration scheme.

"No other car parks in the borough are like this. The car park in Maesteg has just had work done to it and that one is free. The council gets some revenue from Hillsboro Place and it's time that they ploughed some of the profits back in."

Other matters raised included the need for some free parking to entice shoppers into town.

"That's an important part of our strategy and I was pleased that traders agree it would make a difference and boost business.

"Councils will be key to success. Their role is crucial and I will be contacting BCBC over what should be done in Porthcawl."

BCBC Deputy Leader David Sage said it was "disappointing" to hear the AM's comments, claiming that much was already being planned to modernise Porthcawl.

He said: "It's disappointing to hear the same old negative comments being trotted out in spite of the fact that the all-new £3.2m Porthcawl Marina is set to open next year, Porthcawl Lighthouse is undergoing a

£70,000 refurbishment, plans are being made for the Jennings Building and leisure site to the north of the harbour, and bids have been submitted to establish a Townscape

Heritage Initiative funding scheme for the town.

"Improvements at Rest Bay and the huge success of the recent Splash-Up festival demonstrate our continuing efforts to establish Porthcawl as a visitor destination and an official Water Sports Centre of Excellence, and we have improved local access to the coast by creating more than 10km of new footpaths and bridleways, including the boardwalk in Rest Bay and the Locks Common combined footpath and cycleway, which last year recorded more than 560,000 users.

"Tesco's decision to withdraw from the phase one plans may have been frustrating, but it certainly did not signal the end of regeneration in Porthcawl, and we had already prepared alternative arrangements for ensuring that the proposals can still be delivered for the benefit of residents, traders and visitors alike.

"Despite what the regional AM may say, I can assure readers that the council's regeneration plans for Porthcawl are still very much ongoing."

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

SCULPTURES: STRONG LOCAL RUGBY LINK

RIGHT:

The latest work aimed at improving the Bridgend retail scene is almost complete, as a mini piazza takes shape near the Asda car park at Cheapside.

Sculptor David Annand has crafted two statues, and local poet Rhian Edwards has composed verse to accompany them. The statues feature father and son Malgwyn and Gareth Williams, who farm at Ogmere. However, local rugby fans will know Gareth (right) well, as he starred for Bridgend RFC as a No 8, before playing for both Wales and the British Lions.



LEFT:

The statue of Malgwyn Williams.



Porthcawl's festive celebration

PORTHCAWL will be celebrating the arrival of the festive season with an afternoon's entertainment in John Street.

In the square behind the bandstand, there will be gift and food stalls from 12 noon to 5pm, and Bridge FM DJ Lee Jukes will be broadcasting during the afternoon, and acting as MC.

Entertainment at the bandstand includes a Bavarian band (2pm-3pm) and songs from Rhianon Evans-Skilton (3pm-3.20pm).

From 3.30pm to 4pm there will be carol singing, led by vocal group Sounds Familiar, and accompanied by the Bridgend and District Wind Band.

The cast of the pantomime at the Grand pavilion will be making an appearance at 4.20pm, and Santa is due to arrive at 4.30pm.

At 4.45pm, the winners of a poster competition among Porthcawl primary schools will be presented with their prizes.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
bridgend-today.co.uk

Police hunt attack cyclist

POLICE are investigating a serious assault at around 5pm on Sunday, November 25 on the cycle path which links Pontycymmer and Pontyrhyl in Bridgend, when a 15-year-old girl was assaulted by an unknown man riding a bicycle.

A police spokesman said: "He is described as white, tall and of 'skinny' build. He is aged in his early 20s, and was wearing a white, hooded top and dark coloured jeans.

"He had spiked gelled dark hair and had one of his eyebrows pierced with a bar, which had balls on each end. He spoke with an English accent."

Police are appealing for any information, or for anyone who may have seen the cyclist or anyone acting suspiciously, to come forward.

Contact Bridgend CID on 101, or Crimestoppers (free and anonymously) on 0800 555111.

'COME AND MEET SANTA PAWS!'



"We're all getting in the festive mood"

DOGS TRUST Bridgend will be hosting its annual Christmas fayre on Saturday, December 1, when visitors are invited to "pop along for some Christmas shopping" and have their photo taken with 'Santa Paws' in his grotto, from 11am to 3pm at the Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Bridgend.

The charity is also appealing to the public for donations for the tombola - wine, chocolates or small toys and treats for children.

Highlights of the fair include a Santa's grotto for kids and dogs, a luxury raffle, homemade cakes and refreshments (including mince pies and fresh soup), children's activities, tombolas and Christmas-themed stalls selling gifts and crafts.

"This year we will also have some fun face painting and an onsite doggy

paw-trait studio. The rehoming centre will also be open to the public to view the dogs looking for new homes. Admission is free," said Beverley Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre Manager.

"It's the season to be jolly, so come along to our Christmas fayre and join in the fun! Not only will you get to enjoy a fantastic day out for all the family and get some Christmas shopping done, but you'll know that your money is going towards helping dogs in need.

"If you have any unwanted Christmas or birthday gifts lurking in your attic, please consider donating them to help our dogs this Christmas."

For more information about the fayre, any of our doggy residents or if you want to make a donation please contact the centre on 01656 725219 or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

Juniors' Here to Help Club



The pupils at Llangewydd Juniors show their unity against bullying, along with Coun Huw David.

PUPILS from Llangewydd Juniors have backed Anti-Bullying Week 2012 by launching their own Here to Help Club.

"Run by children, for children, the club will now meet at three lunchtimes each week for pupils who might be feeling lonely, need to discuss a problem or want to make more friends. It's one of a number of ways the school has pledged to show how seriously they take the issue of bullying and playground conflict," a spokesperson explained.

Over the last year pupils have formed their own Values Committee, written their own song and created a character called Values Velma to encourage respect, trust and honesty.

They also take part in the Playground Peacemakers programme, which encourages children to settle arguments in a sensible and sensitive way without involving teachers, and Active Buddies, which reinforces the importance of friendship.

Headteacher Sue Davies said: "We are working very hard to achieve Values School status, so I'm really proud of the children's new Here to Help Club, which they have launched for Anti Bullying Week. They have been so enthusiastic and committed to creating and running it.

"These kind of initiatives help our pupils understand the emphasis we place on respecting each other and the importance of settling normal day to day arguments quickly and without hurt-

ing one another."

Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "I'm so impressed with the work Llangewydd Junior pupils have put into these projects, especially the Here to Help Club. They are helping make the playground a happy and peaceful place for everyone to enjoy. They are a great example to us all."

St Robert's RC Primary School has marked Anti Bullying Week 2012 with a whole school assembly on bullying. The school council is currently reviewing and re-writing the school anti bullying policy and are bringing in new anti bullying posters to use throughout the school.

Holy Cross Church sparkles as the Christmas tree festival gives the town a festive feeling!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

THE Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church has established itself as an important part of Cowbridge's festive season.

This year, organisers were once again pleased with the response from local groups, schools and businesses, and there were many favourable comments about the way it has transformed the church – for three days – into a Christmas wonderland.

Many townspeople had their first look at the display of trees when Cowbridge Male Voice Choir performed a concert on Friday night (November 23).

On Sunday, visitors attracted to the town by the Reindeer Parade, also had a chance to see Holy Cross Church looking its finest!



BRIDGE RESULTS

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Monday, November 12 (25 pairs):

North/south - 1st. Mary Moore & Jane Brook 58.35 per cent; 2nd. Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 55.59; 3rd. Liam Sheridan and John Beard 55.00; 4th. John Henson and Geoff Tinkler 53.60; 5th. Elaine Robins and Alan Robins 52.10; 6th. John Evans and Terry Reilly 48.84. East/west - 1st. Debbie Richards and Simon Richards 68.31; 2nd. Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 66.30; 3rd. Linda Pinnock and Marjorie Morris 63.51; 4th. Alan Lewis and Terry Reilly 61.36; 5th. Sara Bartlett and Helen Barrie 55.74;

6th. Anne Hughes and Graham Norris 53.57. The results of the event on Tuesday, November 13 at the Cowbridge and District Bridge Club are given elsewhere and the total amount raised between the two clubs is £426.

We would also wish to thank the support given by local businesses of raffle prizes namely Spar, NISA, Arthur John & Co, Sylvia Williams, Waitrose and members Phil Edwards, also Pat and Brian Swain.

Final details of the totals raised by all the bridge clubs who entered the competition in the UK and elsewhere. Also the final total of donations from all other events will be announced when known.

BS

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CONSERVATION PROJECT

A Llantwit Major man is encouraging people to get involved in a conservation project to encourage local wildlife and boost the bee population.

Mr Steven George, who has 35 years of experience in conservation, said the area under consideration was land which he owns below the Scout Hut in the town. He explained: "I want to encourage wildlife and help the bee population, which is under threat, by planting bee-friendly flowers and bushes.

"Initial meetings are being held at the town hall car park on Saturday, December 8, and Sunday, December 9, at 11am, and potential volunteers are welcome. "The idea is to visit the site, discuss our strategy and tool availability. Work should begin some time after Christmas."

The health and well-being of the British bee population is in danger due to disease, the use of pesticides, and the encroachment of urban areas into green field sites.

Before retiring to look after his father, Mr George worked for 32

years as a ranger at Margam Park, followed by a spell as warden on the Heritage Coast.

Despite his extensive experience, he said he was keen to see what other people could offer.

"Although I have a management plan in mind, I would welcome ideas and help with the labour.

"Volunteers would help clear dense vegetation and plant bird, bee and butterfly-friendly shrubs and flowers.

"A small river at the bottom of the slope provides insects for attracting bats and birds, but appropriate planting is

required along the banks.

"Bird nesting boxes will be placed in the taller trees and flowers will be introduced to help bees feed and gather nectar."

Mr George hopes that in time a bee-keeper will be encouraged to operate locally to benefit from the conservation area.

TIM CHAPMAN

Fireworks night: club's thanks

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC would like to thank the Vale of Glamorgan Council and npower for their contributions towards fireworks night which was held at the club.

We would also like to thank the members of the public who came along and supported the evening, making it such a community success story.

Hopefully, we can do the same again next year. Coun Jeff Evans, Llantwit Major.



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 8 December, 10.30am-3.30pm

Christmas tombola & raffle, books, bric-a-brac, refreshments, homemade cakes, face painting, Santa's grotto and more!

Held at: Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ. See you there!

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E: bridgend@cats.org.uk
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Reg Charity 28844 (England and Wales) and 1031711 (Scotland)



£50,000 profit for Vale Eisteddfod

FUNDRAISERS ARE THANKED

FUNDRAISERS in the Vale who supported the National Eisteddfod at Llandow have been thanked for helping the event make a £50,000 profit.

Announcing the news at the Eisteddfod council meeting in Aberystwyth, the chief executive, Elfed Roberts, said: "We are pleased to announce a surplus of £50,000 following the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod earlier this year."

"Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to Dylan Jones, the chair of the local committee, and his committed team of volunteers who managed to reach – and surpass – an ambitious local target of £300,000."

"We thank everyone involved with the fundraising work and those who worked so hard at local level to prepare for what was a great week of competing, socialising and enjoyment."

"I would also like to thank the companies and the businesses who were so generous with their sponsorship once again this year."

"We are also indebted to a number of local businesses and companies for their support, both financial and practical, during the preparatory period and during the week itself."

He continued: "The past year has been full of challenges, and the Eisteddfod has had to look at each item of our expenditure even more closely than usual, while looking for savings across the board."

"We managed to create savings of around £200,000 this year, and we very much hope that this did not have a negative effect on the visitor experi-

ence during the week, as this is our foremost concern."

"Over the past few months, we have reviewed and evaluated all aspects of the Vale of Glamorgan project, and the report has been discussed in detail by staff, the management board and by the council today."

"Once again this year, we are publishing this report on our website and invite anyone who is interested to send us any comments or ideas relating to its content."

The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod evaluation report is published online on www.eisteddfod.org.uk

Busy period for Maendy YFC

ON Thursday October 25, members took part in the Glamorgan Federation Brainstrust final.

Maendy entered two teams: 'Team 1' consisted of Kate Thomas, Harry Thomas, Louise Evans and Rob David, and 'Team 2' consisted of Heather Jarvis, Jack Thomas, Matthew Davies and George Thomas. Both teams did extremely well, with Team 2 placed third and Team 1 placed fifth out of eighth.

Kate Thomas was placed third individually as chairman.

On Tuesday, October 23, members received a very interesting vet talk from Hugh Davey of Maesglas veterinary practice. Hugh told members about his busy life as a vet and he shared his favourite stories and pictures from over the years.

On Saturday, November 10, members took part in the annual Glamorgan Stockjudging final in Neath cattle market.

It was an early start for all the members who took part and the day consisted of judging dairy cows and butcher's lambs in the morning, followed by butcher's beef and butcher's lambs in the afternoon.

It was an enjoyable day for all members who took part, with Maendy doing very well indeed – placing third overall.

Individual results are as follows: under-26

section: Hannah Lewis – second in butcher's beef; second in dairy; Tom Rees – third in butcher's pigs.

Under-21 section: Beth Jarvis – second in butcher's beef; David Popham – second in butcher's pigs; Heather Jarvis – third in butcher's pigs; Kate Thomas – first in butcher's lambs.

Under-18 section: Jack Thomas – second in butcher's beef, third in dairy, third in butcher's pigs.

Under-16 section: Sophie Thomas – first in dairy.

Members attended a celebratory dance in the night, which was well attended by all members of Glamorgan. Tom Rees was placed second in overall senior stockman. Good luck to Hannah Lewis and Kate Thomas, who are representing Glamorgan in the English and Welsh winter fairs in the next few weeks.

On November 13, members attended the Senedd and received a tour from a former YFC member, Mr Andrew RT Davies AM. Members were very interested to find out how the Assembly is run and what goes on there.

Members are now busy preparing for public speaking competitions.

Maendy YFC would like to invite everyone to join them for their annual Christmas carol service at St Cadoc Church, Pendoylan, on Tuesday, December 4, at 7.30pm. KT

Vale celebrates Carers' Rights

The Vale will be playing its part in this year's Carers' Rights Day tomorrow (November 30), which aims to promote awareness of the help and support available to carers.

Full-time carers for a friend or member of your family can find the Vale's Carers' Policy on the council's website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

The policy is designed to address the needs of employees with caring responsibilities to help balance their home lives with their working lives.

To find out what help is available, contact James Livingstone, carers' development officer, on 01446 704604 or email: CarersServices@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

VALE COUNCIL TARGETS THE BEACH 'LITTERBUGS'

From LEFT to RIGHT: Promoting positive behaviour are local resident Lyndon Hazlewood, Vale Council senior enforcement and compliance officer Denny White, Coun Gwyn John, and Lawrence Coulthard from Vale Letterbox.



THE Vale Council is taking a zero tolerance campaign on litter to the Vale's beaches.

The campaign will see bikes riding along Vale beaches carrying information on responsible disposal of litter and handing out free dog mess bags and cigarette 'stubbies' to passing visitors and residents.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said: "While most residents are law abiding and back our zero tolerance on litter campaign, unfortunately there remain people who choose to fall foul of the law."

"There is no excuse – if you are walking a dog, you must take bags out with you and bin the

mess. Equally, the same principle applies for those who want to dispose of chewing gum, smoke, food/drink or other items that could potentially litter – it is the individual's responsibility to make sure their waste is disposed of in the correct way."

Senior enforcement and compliance officer, Denny White, said: "We give out free cigarette 'stubbies' and dog fouling bags as a goodwill gesture to try and remind people of their duties. However, ultimately it is for people to take their waste home

or find their nearest bin to dispose of litter they, their group or their dogs create in public places."

To find out more, phone 01446 700111, email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or visit the council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Beware these scam callers!

LOCAL residents are being warned about rogue traders claiming to be from Trading Standards, who say they can get money back for householders for driveway or home maintenance work that has not been done to a satisfactory standard.

"They then ask the consumer to pay a fee, which is explained as a court cost. This fee can be in the region of £5,000," said Principal Trading Standards officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey.

"Trading Standards will investigate any complaints in relation to poor workmanship but will never ask for any money."

"Anyone who is genuinely calling from Trading Standards will ring first to make an appointment and will always carry identification. Consumers are urged to check this identification and, if in any doubt, phone the council to verify the identity of the caller."

If residents do receive a cold call of this nature, they should not pay any money out in any circumstances. They should also report the matter to Trading Standards on 01446 709105 and South Wales Police on 101.

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Elaine receiving her community citizenship award from Carsten Egeriis of Barclays Bank.

Elaine survived breast cancer – and now wins a community award

A WOMAN from Barry, who survived breast cancer, has won an award for her enthusiastic support for one of Wales' great national charities.

Elaine Nicholas has been a volunteer for Breast Cancer Care Cymru, helping to raise more than £100,000 for the cause in the last three years.

Elaine, a Barclays Bank employee, was recognised in the company's citizenship awards when Carsten Egeriis handed over the accolade to her for 'outstanding community work'.

In 2006, Elaine discovered a lump in her breast and was diagnosed with breast cancer.

A mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy followed – then reconstructive surgery.

In 2010, she was one of 20 models who took to Breast Cancer Care Cymru's catwalk for the charity's fashion show at City Hall, Cardiff.

The GEM featured her inspiring story on the front page in January 2010. Elaine said: "At

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

the time, I saw the advert for the BCC Cymru fashion Show and applied to prove that there is life after a diagnosis.

"I was thrilled to have modelled at the show in 2010 and after this amazing experience, I was determined to give something back to this tremendous cause.

"I became part of the events committee and the first event we organised, a strawberry tea at Dyffryn Gardens, raised £16,000, which we were all thrilled about.

"Then we organised another fashion show at City Hall which generated a staggering £75,000."

Elaine pointed out: "The many services that Breast Cancer Care Cymru provide are all free of charge and to many people they are a lifeline.

"Without the continued fundraising efforts of groups, individuals and companies, they would not be able to sustain their services, which is why I know that they value all support."

In the New Year,

Elaine and her fellow committee members will sit down to decide what fundraising events to organise in 2013.

She added: "I will be donating the £500 prize which accompanies the award to Breast Cancer Care Cymru."

Mike Jones, of Barclays, said: "It's important to Barclays that we encourage and inspire our employees to support the causes that they care about the most.

"Elaine is a great example to us all, fundraising, volunteering and dedicating much of

her time to local worthy causes and she is someone we're really proud of."

Jay Sheppard, of Breast Cancer Care, added: "I'm absolutely thrilled that Elaine has received the recognition that her efforts deserve from her employers and I thank her wholeheartedly for her continued support of Breast Cancer Care Cymru and the work that we do."

If you would like to support Breast Cancer Care Cymru through fundraising or volunteering you can email: jay.sheppard@breastcancercare.org.uk or phone 02920 234073.

MAYOR'S EVENTS

THE Vale Mayor is hosting two festive events in support of his charities, Help for Heroes, Prostate Cymru and Stroke Association.

A Christmas concert takes place on Wednesday, December 12, at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, at 7.15pm, and features the Vale of Glamorgan Band and the Canton Salvation Army Junior Singers.

There will also be a Christmas carol service on Thursday, December 20, in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, at 7pm.

Tickets are £5 for each event, and can be obtained from the Mayor's Office, Town Hall, Barry on 01446 709301.

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FAREWELL TWILIGHT... but will you be missed?

I'M sure there will be some eagle-eyed readers who will have noticed that last week I reviewed Paul Thomas Anderson's *The Master*, as opposed to the final instalment of the *Twilight* saga, *Breaking Dawn: Part 2* (or *Breaking Yawn* if you so wish).

As regular readers of this column will note, my love for this particular franchise veers somewhere between 'little' and 'non-existent'.

However, there is no disputing the impact it has had upon both the box office and popular culture; so why ignore the closing chapter of this cinematic behemoth, I hear you ask?

Well, the honest truth is, the film is unreviewable.

As with most gigantic blockbusters in this day and age, opinions of critics like myself, whether good or bad, matter not one iota.

If you are a fan of the franchise (and I'm aware that there's more than a few), then a

review of the film, negative or otherwise, would be obsolete.

That said, it would seem churlish not to acknowledge the passing of this series that has made so many people weak at the knees; and also wonder where these fans will now get their fix of melodramatic, teenage angst with a vampire/lycanthrope twist.

I suggest seeking out any of the poorly-acted and scripted American soap operas that relish in ludicrous plots, and then just imagining they have the ability to glitter in the sun or rip their t-shirts off and become wolves.

The *Twilight* saga, you see, has become the by-word for ludicrous storylines, teenagers struggling to come to terms with love in the most pained way possible and acting that even a wooden dining set would emulate.

That a film would even approach the subject of a vampire-tooth caesarean or a teenager marking a baby with their 'imprint', and thus linking them together forever, without its tongue firmly lodged in its cheek, shows how utterly bonkers this series was – something that is both ridiculous



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
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and admirable at the same time.

As for the stars of the show, certainly Robert Pattinson's decision to work with directors like David Cronenberg shows a desire and willingness to break free from the shackles of teen fandom.

However, for Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner, both of whom have seen their work outside the franchise met with a shrug of the shoulders, post-*Twilight* life may be bleak.

That neither of the three has come close to troubling the Academy with their performances is neither here or there; but that they have managed to perfect the furrowed brow and mopey-mouth look in lieu of

actual acting, shows that this wasn't a series concerned with the 'method' – rather satisfying the urges of its largely teenage fanbase.

But as much as I could criticise the franchise all day long for the disservice it has done to the art of cinema, it also shows a success story for the smaller studio.

With more than \$2billion logged before the release of the final instalment, both Lionsgate and Summit Entertainment (both small-ish fish in the big pond of Hollywood) have now become major players who can use the profits to make smaller, more 'artistically-credible' work viable in an era of low-risk production – something that even the most anti 'Twi-Hard' would agree is hardly a bad thing.

So, farewell then to a polarising franchise that has either blighted the face of cinema for the past four years, or been an amazing series – depending on your viewpoint.

Personally, I'm glad to see the back of the glittery, moping two-dimensional characters but hey – I'm only a film critic!

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RHOOSE - THE VILLAGE WITH GREAT BUSINESSES AND GREAT SERVICE...

IN an age when there's a temptation to think major supermarkets supply all our shopping needs, businesses in Rhose provide a reminder that some services are best left to the 'expert independents'.

Vanessa Carty's Sublime Hair is a great 'go to' place for local women who want to look their best at a party, a company occasion or over the Christmas-New Year period.

Sublime Hair is an ultra-modern salon, light and spacious, providing top haircuts, colourings and beauty treatments.

Vanessa said: "We run a loyalty scheme that rewards our regular cus-

tomers with either money off or free treatments.

"People should also be aware that we sell Kitoko gift sets, which make ideal Christmas presents.

"As we approach the end of the year, I'd like to thank them all for their continued support and wish them a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year."

Sublime Hair also has its own beauty specialist, Therese Lewis, who provides treatments for nails, lashes, waxing, tans and even mini-facials.

Vanessa added: "It is advisable to call the staff to book an appointment on 01446 711799, because sessions in December are getting booked up quickly and people don't want to be disappointed."

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Sublime Hair will be open on Christmas Eve until 3pm; its normal trading days are from Tuesday to Saturday (9am to 5pm, except Saturday, 4pm). On Friday, there's a late night until 7pm.

It opens after the Christmas break on December 28 and will also be open on New Year's Eve to look after everyone planning to attend an end-of-year party.

DREAM

Six months ago, Jo Grenough and Kath Johnston realised their dream and opened their new venture - Posh Pawz salon. To show how ambitious the ladies were, they even managed to get a Welsh international footballer to open their shop - Craig Bellamy.

As their first Christmas approaches, Posh Pawz is established as a new, successful, busy niche business, saving people in Rhose an extended journey to get their dogs groomed.

Jo said: "Our cuts start at £25 and that includes - if necessary - treatment on nails, ears or anal glands. Every dog gets a free bandana too."

People love picking up their pet, freshly washed and cut, and wagging its tail, happily sporting its new 'scarf'.

Kath added: "Our first six months have been brilliant. We're very busy and advise people

to book their dog in if they want it groomed in the lead-up to Christmas.

"To celebrate the festive season, we are planning to have mince pies with our customers."

The doggy salon will be open until December 22, and will then re-open after the Christmas break on January 3.

Glenys Watson of Coffee Time provides a welcome pit-stop for local people who want a break in the day, a moment with a friend or simply a peaceful time watching the world go by.

Glenys said: "We've been here nearly two years. Our clientele is a complete mixture - local people, mums who are popping to the school and, in the summer, visitors to Rhose and walkers."

"We serve breakfasts, snacks, paninis, jacket dishes and soups, and a selection of drinks. There's a wide choice of home-made cakes."

"We're also putting Christmas specials on the menu: hot turkey, stuffing and cranberry baguettes followed by mince pies!"

The coffee shop will remain open right up to Christmas Eve.

Glenys also provides buffets for special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays and christenings - pop into Coffee Time for details.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)



ABOVE:
Jo and Kath at Posh Pawz are making life so much easier for local dog lovers.

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Rhooose gets ready for Christmas

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

There are great local pubs and restaurants too.

In the last five years, Kevin and Kerry Eade have turned The Fontygary Inn into one of the area's most popular pubs.

Dining out during December and early January is becoming more and more popular, so it is advisable to give them a ring to make sure you get that vital evening booked.

At The Highwayman on the outskirts of Rhooose, the owner-chef Wayne Morgan and his partner Katie Neville, have created an enviable reputation for excellent quality dining complemented by good, prompt service.

Wayne is an accomplished 'fish chef' and a visit to The Highwayman comes highly recommended.

How many villages in the world can boast modern business ventures, a railway station, an international airport, and a sports and fitness complex with restaurants and entertainment – Fontygary Leisure Park?

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Tan y Hyde's Christmas grotto for local charities



The ladies at Tan y Hyde are inviting local families to their Santa's Grotto on December 23 – proceeds will go to two south Wales charities.

TAN Y HYDE in Rhooose is inviting everyone to its Santa's Grotto on Sunday, December 23 – two charities

are set to benefit and the special day starts at 2.30pm

The manager of the popular local hair and beauty salon, Kath Scully, said: "Proceeds on the day will go to Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, a school for pupils with physical and learning disabilities, and The Joshua Foundation which provides special life experiences for children living with cancer."

"There will be presents for the children, face-painting, hair-curling and the chance to have nails done. We are also holding a Christmas raffle."

For mums there will be the chance to enjoy some treatments as well.

Tan y Hyde provides a great service for both sexes – haircuts, waxing, lashes, brows, nails and tanning; relaxing massages, body treatments and facials.

December is booking up fast, but if you call 01446 711598 you may be in time to book a session.

The salon holds special late nights 'til 7pm on Fridays, and will even open for limited hours on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Kath told The GEM: "We want to wish all our customers in Rhooose and Barry a happy Christmas and New Year."

Tan y Hyde also hosts a post box for the Scouts who deliver Christmas cards across the Vale and Cardiff.

Former Barry soldier wins 'caring' award

A FORMER soldier from Barry has won a top award at Wales' most prestigious care awards ceremony.

Former Royal Welch Fusilier Sam Harrison is celebrating a bronze award as 'outstanding newcomer', a category sponsored by Barclays Bank, who were also overall sponsors for the 10th anniversary Wales Care Awards, an 'Oscar-style' awards night for the care sector in Wales, run by Care Forum Wales.

Sam received his award at a black tie event in Cardiff City Hall from Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas.

Looking after people with physical and mental health problems has been a life-changing experience for Sam, 23, from Gaen Road, Barry, who says caring for people in the community, working for Barry-based All Care South Wales, has made him look at life differently.

"It sounds cheesy, but when you see some people having to put up with horrendous conditions it makes you look at life differently. Dementia can be terrible."

"It's something people want to brush under the carpet but it's something which can happen to anyone, even people in their 30s and 40s, which can be quite shocking for family members."

Coming from an army back-

ground, Sam and his family travelled around a lot and inevitably he joined up. But when the Royal Welch Fusiliers were amalgamated in 2005, he left the army and pursued his other great love – motorbikes.

Unusually both his father and mother rode motorcycles – his mother actually rode a Ducati and his father still rides a bike.

"After the army, I went to college and did a motorcycle apprenticeship. I worked for a car company for one year and then worked for the Riders motorcycle company in Cardiff, working on Ducatis and BMWs," he said.

With the economic downturn, he was made redundant and his step-sister Tasha Miller suggested he think about care work. She has worked for All Care for three or four years.

He applied and was taken on as a community care worker last October. One of his clients has an acquired brain injury, suffered a stroke after the injury and also has epilepsy and a stomach problem.

The man had to be taught basic living skills. "We also had to teach him how to cook because his stomach is so sensitive."

"He loved eating curry but it made him ill, so we had to plan his entire diet and buy all the food in and make sure he was able to cook it himself if necessary."

"We take him to the shops



SAM HARRISON

because his balance is not good and his speech has been affected.

"It was a massive shock for someone like me and I will never moan about anything again!"

Sam attends Barry College studying for his BTEch Diploma in IT studies and has ambitions to gain his HND qualification.

He added: "When I got the nomination, I said I am just doing the job I am paid for, nothing special. But it's a real privilege that people are thinking of you in this way."

Sam attended the awards ceremony with girlfriend Ruth Williams who has just finished her HND in animal welfare and does work for the leading veterinary charity PDSA.

The evening was compered by BBC newreader Lucy Owen, with entertainment from the talented mezzo-soprano, Sioned Terry.

Local woman is Pilates master

A COWBRIDGE woman has just returned from a high-level event designed to teach her more about a popular training regime.

Karen Ingram, the co-founder of Barefoot Studio, is already a senior Pilates instructor, and has just returned from an international training course in Barcelona.

She was invited by Peak Pilates and this will lead to her becoming a 'Pilates Master Instructor', qualified to train Pilates' instructors in two disciplines, the Chair and the Reformer.

Karen will be the first Master Instructor in Wales and one of just three in the UK.

She said: "Joseph Pilates originally designed the Pilates Chair to challenge the body's deep core muscles in a dynamic way, using springs and a moving pedal."

"The Pilates Reformer is even more versatile than the chair and achieves real changes to the body's strength and shape."

Barefoot Studio has two reformers and will shortly be offering group chair classes from their centre in Cowbridge.

Karen said, "The three-day course was amazing. I was working alongside other instructors from India, USA, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Tunisia, Poland, Italy and elsewhere."

"I was honoured to be asked to attend, and look forward sharing my new skills in Wales."



ABOVE:

Karen Ingram (back row in purple) recently visited Barcelona for a training course.

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VALEWAYS TEAM LOOKS BACK ON PAST YEAR AT AGM

THE annual general meeting of Valeways was held recently at the Forest Lodge, Porthkerry Country Park, Barry.

The chairman, Phil Gibbins, welcomed members to the meeting and asked for the appointment of three new trustees Michael Edwards, Lynda Wallis and Meirion Morgan to be formally accepted by the meeting.

He went on to give a very favourable report on the situation that Valeways now finds



itself in, after what has been a very difficult year.

The difficulties with funding had been overcome after a grant from the Vale Council had

been received.

He said that there have been changes, and that the office staff has been reduced to one, while repairing stiles and the like was now being done by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The trustees are also taking on duties previously carried out by paid staff.

Valeways continues to provide the council's public rights of way officer with regular condition reports.

Mr Gibbins thanked the trustees and all the walk leaders for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

Further information can be found on Valeways' website at www.valeways.org.uk

£75 fines for dog fouling

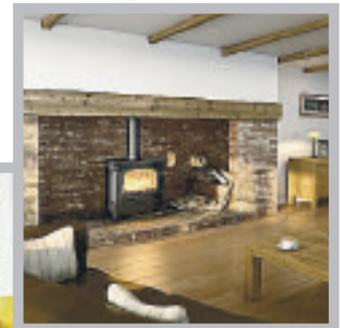
XFOR officers issued 60 fixed penalty notices in the Vale of Glamorgan during the week commencing November 12.

It has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents and is taking a 'zero tolerance' approach; offenders are issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning.



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Ten years on, village gathers to remember a school bus tragedy

THE annual lighting of the Christmas tree in Ystradowen next Monday (December 3) will be especially poignant this year, as the village remembers the 10th anniversary of the fatal school bus crash which claimed the life of 12-year-old Stuart Cunningham Jones.

Villagers have gathered each year on the anniversary of the crash to quietly remember the suffering of that deeply traumatic night, and to welcome the coming of the Christmas season as a time of hope and peace in the world.

This year, there will be a renewed focus on the tragic accident, as many involved look back on what has been done since to stop similar tragedies happening again.

Dr Chris Howard, who led a campaign to improve school bus safety in the years after the accident, writes:

"The events of that night will live forever in the memory of those involved, as will the image of the bus hang-

ing precariously over the embanked field below.

"It was a terrible time. After the initial frenzy of public interest subsided, we needed to come together in support of Jo and David Cunningham Jones, as they came to terms with their tragic loss.

"We all knew that many more children could have lost their lives and we all felt that more could have been done to prevent the accident happening.

"That's why we set up Stuart's Campaign early in the New Year of 2003. The immediate grief had turned to a collective anger and we all felt something had to be done.

"A police investigation had begun and the Vale Council officers had been warned by its insurers that it should not discuss the events surrounding the crash.

"But for many people in Ystradowen, that looked like an evasion of responsibility and, if anything, it fuelled the frustration and anger and spurred the group on.

"We used the many and various skills of the village community to get our message across.

"We set up a website, issued press releases,

made contact with most of the Welsh media outlets and built excellent relationships with many journalists.

"They knew that there was a question to be answered. Why were there no escorts and no requirement to wear seatbelts? It was network journalist Wyre Davies, now reporting from Gaza for the BBC, who first asked that key question in the village on the morning after the crash.

"We also wanted to know why escorts were not provided, why risk assessments were not made and why seat belts were not needed.

"We made remarkable progress for a small and very local group, working alongside a more longstanding campaign called BUSK. By the time of the National Assembly elections in 2003, we were confident enough to run hustings for local candidates.

"We were able to get our message into the National Assembly of Wales and we were careful not to align with any one grouping. Jane Hutt, the local AM and Alun Cairns, then a regional AM, both gave us strong support, but the other party representatives also played their part in bringing about a national debate within Wales and keeping the issue in the front line of the Assembly's work.

"A key supporter was Peter Clarke, the first Children's Commissioner for Wales. He met with Jo and David Cunningham Jones and saw immediately that there was an issue that needed to be addressed.

"It was difficult not to come to that conclusion after talking with Jo and Dave. Throughout, they were models of integrity, determination and fortitude. Without their courage, much less would have been achieved.

"The machinery of government turns slowly, however. After the early successes of the campaign, we settled down to many months of more detailed work in lobbying and understanding the intricate details of the legislation surrounding school transport.

"It was complex and difficult but we persuaded the Assembly to set up a committee of enquiry, led by Peter Black AM.

In due course, it published a report with many specific recommendations to improve safety on school buses.

"Some of the proposals could be dealt with by local councils without legislation, but we wanted a national code and the compulsory wearing of seat belts, and that needed a change in the

law. The Westminster Parliament was not really interested, though we gave evidence to a Select Committee. This was too small an issue for them it seemed.

"But here in Wales, there was more interest, and we tested the limits of devolved government in pushing for those measures that the Assembly could accomplish in Wales. We got a commitment from the One Wales Labour-Plaid coalition government in 2007, and when the Learner Transport (Wales) Measure 2008 was eventually passed, it was only the second piece of Welsh-specific legislation made since the time of Owain Glyndwr.

"The Measure insisted that local councils do more to ensure that bus contractors, schools, councils and parents all knew their part in keeping school buses safe.

"A national code of conduct was established and councils were encouraged not to use double deckers on the school run.

"More legislation followed in 2011 with the introduction of further compulsory safety regulations for school transport, including the use of appropriate seatbelts and CCTV.

"Trained supervisors would be provided for some learner transport, mandatory training for drivers would be developed and vehicles that don't meet strict safety standards would be phased out.

"Stuart's Campaign needed to play only a small part in these later developments. The issue and the legislation needed to deal with it had become embedded in the work of local government and the Welsh Assembly.

"It had taken a long time – too long perhaps – but we had reached a point where we had achieved most of what we had set out to do in the aftermath of the Ystradowen accident.

"Councils, schools, pupils and parents still need to be vigilant because risks will always remain, but the legislation has set higher standards and clarified the issue of who is responsible.

"Our work had run its course.

"The children involved that night are now young adults, some with families of their own, making their way in the world. Ten years has seen a lot of pain, but also some progress to a better way.

"On December 3, we will gather again to support Jo, David and Angharad in remembering that some good has come from their terrible loss."

Galilee Chapel project receives funding boost



The presentation of the £10,000 grant from the Welsh Church Act Trust. From left to right: Mr Clifford Edge, Mr Ian Colston, Coun Fred Johnson, Mr D Jenking and the Rev H Butler.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Welsh Church Act Estate has contributed £10,000 towards the £1 million Galilee Chapel Project.

The West church at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, contains a fine collection of late Celtic stones.

Two of them commemorate local kings, and another is probably the earliest inscribed stone in Britain.

Unfortunately, they are housed in a busy parish church and many visitors have pointed out that they need protection and a more worthy display.

The Galilee Chapel Project aims to rebuild the ruined Galilee at the west end of the church to rehouse the stones, but also to create a research centre for the study of Celtic Christianity, particularly in the Vale.

The project, which is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Welsh Church Acts and CADW, will also provide improved facilities in the West church for worship and community use.

Llantwit Major Boys fly the flag for Wales



The Llantwit Major team who competed in Exeter.

A TEAM of four boys from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade took part in the first round of the BB National Masterteam competition at Exeter, and although the team will not go through to the next round, they performed exceptionally well and we are very proud of them.

The competition consisted of 10 rounds, each of 10 questions, including BB knowledge, capital cities of Europe, Queen's Diamond Jubilee, London Olympics 2012 and Tintin.

Well done to DJ Jones, Michael Ellis, Dylan Johnston and Jake Newton. The Llantwit boys were the only Welsh team to enter this UK competition.

We would also like to let all our friends and supporters know that our annual jumble sale will take place at Llantwit Major Town Hall on Saturday, January 19.

We will need items for sale so if you have any items for collection (perhaps while sorting out over Christmas!), please contact Andy Wellsbury on 01446 796374.

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Physio speaks on powers of recovery

THE November meeting of St Hilary WI was held in the Village Hall, when the minutes of the last meeting and the Glamorgan Newsletter were read, and final arrangements made for the Christmas dinner next month.

Jenny Hughes and Sheila Davies had attended the Glamorgan Federation autumn council meeting in Porthcawl on November 5, and Jenny reported to members on the proceedings, stating that 90 WIs were represented at the meeting.

The main speaker was Miranda Krestovnikoff from the television series *Coast* and both Jenny and Sheila found her talk fascinating.

It was finally agreed that the January, February and March meetings would be held in the afternoon, instead of in the evening.

This has been decided as several of the older members are not comfortable travelling in the dark evenings and winter weather.

The guest speaker was Steve Cannon, a

physiotherapist with more than 30 years of experience, who has had a varied career, including the position of physiotherapist to the world famous Barbarians rugby team, and he travelled extensively around the world for more than 10 years.

He also joined the men's ATP tennis tour as a member of the physiotherapy team in 1994, and treated many world ranked players, including Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg.

As several members have either had knee or hip replacements, or are scheduled to have them in the near future, Steve was able to explain, in understandable detail, what these operations entail and how physiotherapy can help recovery.

He also explained how injuries to muscles, ligaments and tendons occur and how they are treated.

Apparently, 92 per cent of physiotherapists are female and, unfortunately, there are too many who qualify for too few available jobs.

All members present found his talk entertaining and interesting, as well as extremely informative. SD

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is

Patricia Bevan-Morgan

Telephone(01656) 880418

Condolences

IT is sad to report

the death of Dr

Helen Wynne

Davies of

'Sarum', Craig-y-

Eos Road, Ogmere-

by-Sea, who died

peacefully in the

Princess of Wales

Hospital after a long

illness bravely

borne.

She is sadly missed by mother Miriam and sister Katherine and the family, and our deepest sympathy goes out to them.

The funeral took place on November 22, at C o y c h u r c h Crematorium.

Concert

A VERY successful concert

with Bridgend Male

Choir, was held in St

Bridget's Church on

November 16, followed

by refreshment at the

Fox and Hounds.

Collection

THE harvest collection

for the Bridgend Food

Bank raised £605.10, to

which Gift Aid was

added, making a total of £742.60. Many thanks to all who donated.

Heritage

Centre

FRIENDS of the

Heritage Coast are

holding a pre-Christmas

event at the Heritage

Centre, Dunraven,

Southerndown, on

Sunday, December 2, at

2.30pm.

Why not go along and bring your friends to enjoy a log fire, mulled wine and mince pies?

As ever, the Rangers will offer some entertainment and there will be a raffle.

Diary

DATES for the diary:

November 30, Mothers'

Union Eucharist in All

Saints Church,

Southerndown, at

10am.

December 1, St

Brides Major C/W

School Christmas

Fayre, 10am-12 noon.

December 9,

Christmas carols and

readings (and surprises)

in Wick Chapel at 3pm.

All are welcome to

attend.

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The message of Christmas, from Cowbridge to Belarus



Pupils barge their way to a tasty treat in aid of charity.



The van is loaded ready to begin the shoeboxes' journey to Belarus.

PUPILS and staff at the comprehensive school in Cowbridge have shown the Christmas spirit – with a fantastic effort in collecting contributions for 'Operation Christmas Child'.

The charity project, run by Christian Reliefs and development organisation Samaritan Purse, sends around 8.6 million shoeboxes containing practical

and fun gifts, to needy children around the world.

The school put together 250 decorated shoeboxes, each containing messages from children at the school.

The boxes left the school on November 15, destined for underprivileged children in Belarus.

For most of the children who will receive a shoebox, this will be the only Christmas present they will get.

As well as gathering the

boxes, more than £400 was raised through a cake sale run by pupils.

This was a massive response by Cowbridge Comprehensive School to an often understated problem, and those involved offer their heart-felt thanks to everyone that helped and supported the appeal.

The fundraising was organised by year-10 pupils Tilly Hall and Ellis Rosser, with the help of Josie Palmer and Luca Bianchi.

TH

Students prepare for enterprising Christmas

YEAR-12 students at Llantwit Major Comprehensive are busy preparing for their Christmas fayre on December 8 from 10am until 12pm.

All Welsh Baccalaureate students are busy putting the final touches to their enterprise ideas, ready to tempt the community and generate some much needed funds for charity.

The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification is really brought to life by this event as it incorporates so many aspects of the award.

Students have to be enterprising, community focused and employ the highly valued skills of good communication, problem solving and working with

others.

Students have responded positively to the challenge.

Olivia Holt: "By working with others I have learned how challenging planning an event can be."

Bethan Davies: "Working with others is interesting and it helps to get to know each other well."

Lantianna Darter: "Working with others is about problem solving, and once overcome it is a rewarding achievement."

Mrs Gallo, head of business and careers at the school, has been particularly impressed with the entrepreneurial skills pupils displayed in preparing for the fayre.

Rhiannon Carr, leader of learning for the Welsh Baccalaureate, has thanked

staff who have encouraged the students to participate in this worthwhile event.

"I'm very proud of our students. Many go that extra mile to make things like this happen, and they're committed to putting their best into everything."

"Many students also gave up their time to attend a lantern making workshop. This is in preparation for the lantern parade which is also being held on December 8."

"So, please come along on December 8 to support our hard working students and stock up on some Christmas bargains. All proceeds go to charity," she urged.

(SEE ADVERT
ON PAGE 31)

Reindeer parade is town success story



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COWBRIDGE Reindeer Parade has, like the Food and Drink Festival just a few weeks ago, become a popular event which showcases everything that is positive about the town.

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, recently praised Cowbridge for its pro-active approach to boosting the 'high street', and Sunday, December 25 was an illustration that if traders and the community invest in events, the people will come.



Project challenges age discrimination

EVERYONE'S FUTURE is a new, intergenerational partnership project by Vibe Experience and Age Concern Cardiff and The Vale to tackle negative stereotyping and challenge age discrimination.

A working group is being set up for project staff, older people, young people and professionals.

The first meeting is being held today (November 29) at Area 41, Holton Road, Barry at 4pm. Contact Louise David, age equality worker (young people) via email: louise@vibexperience.com, or call 01446 700622 for more information.

Lottery award for Cornelly

THE Big Lottery Fund has awarded £5,000 to the Cornelly and District Development Trust in Cornelly, Bridgend, to establish a new community internet cafe as a focal point for the community, with training and volunteering opportunities.

Other recipients included The Rainbow Women's Group in the Vale, who received £2,120.

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Air Cadets celebrate bumper year in their history at Cowbridge

AIR Cadets at 293 (Cowbridge) Squadron are rounding off one of the most successful years in recent memory – with cadets meeting new challenges and enjoying many activities unique to the ATC.

A spokesman reports: Cadet Warrant Officer Matt Whiteley, of Trehyngyll, was selected to be a part of the International Air Cadet Exchange. After a short spell in Washington DC, Matt got to enjoy two weeks in California, staying in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas.

In the course of a jam-packed schedule, he visited the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, which serves as mission control for all unmanned missions including the ongoing explorations of Mars.

He toured the 192nd Rescue Squadron which operates MC-130 Hercules and HH-60 Pavehawk helicopters in the Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) role. Matt also got to enjoy some quintessential American experiences, such as visiting Huntington Beach in Orange County, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and getting to drive a classic Ford Mustang, courtesy of his hosts.

He further distinguished himself this year by serving as the Lord

Lieutenant's Cadet for South Glamorgan and completing the Air Cadet Junior Leader's course: a nine-month course that takes place on military training areas across the UK. Of the 50 or so cadets selected, less than half graduated, with Matt finishing second by only a single point.

Flight Sergeant Tom Page, from St Mary Church, went to the Netherlands this summer as a member of a team from No.3 Welsh Wing and completed the Nijmegen Vierdaagse, or Four Day Marches.

Teams cover 100 kilometres at a pace of around 6kph or 4mph.

Training for the event took eight months, and to qualify as a part of the British military contingent, the team had to complete a two-day march at Cosford, near Telford, in absolutely abysmal weather.

For Tom, the hard work and the misery were all worthwhile once the team reached Holland: "What really impresses everyone when they get there is the size and scale of the event. Over 40,000 people from all over the world take part every year. The local people line the streets each day, shouting and supporting you."

"To be a part of something that big was an unbelievable feeling and discovering that you're able to keep going even when you feel absolutely shredded is really rewarding."

After a well-earned three months off, Tom has recently started training with the team for next year's event.

Fifteen year-old Sergeant Dafydd Brown, from Cowbridge, spent two weeks in Gibraltar as part of No.3 Welsh Wing's Operation Felix. Although Dafydd and the team got to experience the rich history of the Western Mediterranean outpost, the main purpose of the trip was to learn to SCUBA dive in waters that are much warmer than the UK.

The Wing will be running the exercise again in 2013 and the squadron hopes that more cadets will take up the challenge.

FS Pat Croysdale, also from Cowbridge, took part in one activity that separates the Air Cadets from any other youth organisation, namely flying training.

Through the Air Cadets, young men and women are able to fly solo in aircraft before they are old enough to drive a car and in August, 16-year-old Pat spent nine days with No.636 VGS at Swansea Airport, learning to fly the Vigilant self-launched motor glider.

He successfully completed his Gliding Scholarship and is currently hoping to be selected for an Air Cadet Pilot or Navigation course in 2013.

As the squadron heads into the winter, it focuses more on the ground training syllabus

which gives cadets the essential knowledge they need to go out and engage with the wide range of activities, courses and award schemes the Corps offers.

The younger cadets are still able to sample some of the exciting things that lie in store for them.

Recently, four of the squadron's younger cadets received a gliding induction course at Swansea and for 13-year-olds Nia Brown and Shaun Skeet, flying over the Gower provided their first experience of taking control of an aircraft under the watchful eye of their pilots.

The squadron is also being well-represented on the sports field, especially by the younger cadets, such as Robyn Williams from Treoes, Ieuan Norris from St Donats, Warren Ryland from Cowbridge and Ystradowen's Shaun Skeet all being chosen to represent south and west Wales in various sports.

Next year holds even more promise, as the squadron expands and cadet and staff work hard to restore the squadron to its former strength.

Particular congratulations must go to Martyn Jones, who has just completed his Basic Expedition Leader's course.

Martyn's success means that the squadron can once again conduct Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions in-house, which will mean that cadets can progress faster through the UK's premier award scheme for young people.

With two other instructors currently participating in the following course, the squadron will be out and about even more than before.

The squadron parades at its headquarters off Aberthaw Road in Cowbridge on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm-9.15pm. For further details, contact adj.293@aircadets.org or 07999 879174.

CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

THE annual lighting of the Llancafarn Christmas tree will take place on Sunday, December 9 at 6pm at the ford in Llancafarn, with carols (including a special appearance by Llancafarn school choir); mince pies and mulled wine (weather permitting).

The lights will be turned on by the winner of the Llancafarn Primary School painting competition – to be announced.

WI transported back to a 'more romantic era' through Ivor Novello

THE November meeting of Ystradowen and District WI took place at the village hall on Wednesday, November 7.

President Jan Foyle welcomed two new members, before introducing the speaker, Howard Mortimer.

He entertained us with an enthusiastic talk about the life and work of Welsh composer, Ivor Novello.

Novello was born in Cardiff in 1893 and named David Ivor Davies. His mother, Clara Novello Davies, was an internationally known singing teacher and choral conductor.

Ivor inherited her musical talent. He was educated privately in Cardiff and later won a scholarship to Magdalen College School in Oxford.

He soon showed a talent for writing songs and his first song was published when he was just 15 years old.

He gave piano lessons in Cardiff after leaving school but in 1913, moved to London, living in a flat above the Strand Theatre where he remained for the rest of his life.

He adopted his mother's maiden name, Novello, and this is how he will always be remembered.

Howard's talk was accompanied by recordings from Novello's musicals such as 'Glamorous Night' and 'The Dancing Years'. Novello appeared in the lavish West End productions.

We enjoyed being transported back into a more romantic era and reliving Novello's songs, which we have enjoyed during our own lifetime.

A vote of thanks was given by Anita Jones., and after a break, Jan chaired the business for the evening.

Jan and Mary O'Leary had attended the memorial service for member Kathy Greene.

Some 20 of our members had attended the link meeting and enjoyed the presentation of Victorian costumes.

Jan brought to our attention the financial problems facing Denman College.

Ystradowen members had provided tea for 48 walkers in October, when they arrived at Ystradowen hall very weary and muddy!

Members were asked to look out items for the table top sale on November 18.

Jan and Moira had attended a meeting on recruitment and retention.

The December meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 5.

We will meet for lunch at The Plymouth Arms in Saint Fagans. This will be followed by a talk on Christmas customs at Saint Fagans by Dr Emma Lee. EL



WINTER/CHRISTMAS AREA PROFILE

APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street profile

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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IT is fair to say that, in retail terms, the 'centre of gravity' of Bridgend has shifted in recent years.

The arrival of Asda, and with it more parking spaces, has meant that shoppers visiting the town are aware of a more spread out town centre, and businesses on the southern side of town, and in outlying areas, are definitely taking advantage of this.

This area has long been a 'gateway' to the town and, before the town centre was pedestrianised, it was the main thoroughfare for visitors when they arrived in Bridgend.

The stretch along Nolton Street, Ewenny Road and also Five Bells Road is an excellent area for local traders with bright ideas, who can offer something different.

At night, of course, it is the restaurants and take-aways that stand out in Nolton Street, but there is much more to be found during daytime business hours.

Take time to explore the area and you will discover that there are numerous businesses plying their trade, including a delicatessen, old-fashioned sweet shop, beauty salons, hair-dressers, a foot clinic, an antiques shop, art gallery, pharmacy, furniture, a bead shop, a dental practice, and fashion stores.

Maria Phillips runs the Bridgend Foot Clinic in Nolton Street with her son Ben, and feels that the way forward is to keep investing in quality brands.

She said: "Nolton Street is an iconic Bridgend Street, with a great history, and it is being kept alive by independent businesses such as ours."

"We are investing in the business by bringing the top brand names to the high street. A lot of businesses in Bridgend have tried the cheap generic brands, but the future is in quality."

Just off Ewenny Road in Five Bells Road, the Bridgend Cycle Centre has found that the

boom in British competitive cycling, with Bradley Wiggins' Tour de France and the Olympics the most recent high-points, has raised interest in two-wheeled transport.

Stuart Thom and Natalie Gordon run the business, and have customers ranging from 'beginners' right through to experts, and an age range from five to 70-plus.

They also offer their expertise to the community. Stuart runs a weekly BMX night in the YMCA, while Natalie is involved in the growing sport of roller derby.

It has been popular in America, but more and more British towns are forming teams, including Bridgend, where the 'Rink Rats' meet and train in the YMCA.

Further out of town, in Ewenny itself, the Ewenny Garden Centre has recently completed a major redevelopment.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 26



ABOVE:
Mother and son
Maria and Ben
Phillips, of
Bridgend Foot
Clinic.



LEFT:
Stacey Ranson,
of Coast Hair
Studio, St Brides
Major.

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WINTER/CHRISTMAS AREA PROFILE

APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street profile



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Town has so much to offer

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 25

Owner Geraint Simmonds told The GEM that it was a family-owned business, and that the redevelopment marked the first two years of trading in Ewenny.

He said: "We now have a coffee shop serving hot food, and the gift shop has been completely refitted."

Geraint added: "Our Christmas trees have arrived now, and we are looking forward to a busy December."

In St Bride's Major, Stacey Ranson of Coast Hairdressers is celebrating a successful first year.

She said: "I do have a really good local client base, but I find that customers enjoy coming out to the village, where it is easy to park and there is a relaxed atmosphere."

"I have regulars coming from Porthcawl and Bridgend. I am planning to reward these regulars by introducing a loyalty card."

PHILIP IRWIN



ABOVE: Christopher Rowbottom of Christophers Designs (Furniture) Ltd.



Samantha Budd of Samantha 'B' Fashions.

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Bridgend offers special festive events and free parking for Christmas

FREE parking and special events are part of the council's plans to get Bridgend buzzing this Christmas.

Featuring prominently will be seasonal craft and food markets, a free Christmas train for children, the third annual Elf-steddod, a visit from Santa, a reindeer parade, choirs, brass bands, carols and lots more.

Many shops will offer late night shopping throughout the festive season, and visitors will be able to park free in all council-run car parks, after 2pm from Monday, December 10 to Saturday, December 15, and also after 10am between Monday, December 17 and Saturday, December 22.

There will also be free parking after 10am

on Christmas Eve.

Free all-day car parking will also be available at the council's Sunnyside offices on Saturday 8, 15 and 22 December.

The BCBC Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage, said: "In addition to free car parking, we've got some great Christmas events lined up and plenty of shops to browse through, so come and see what the town has to offer."

The festivities will begin with the arrival of Santa Claus and his reindeer on Saturday, December 1, at 11.30am. Rudolph and his friends will entertain the crowds with a Reindeer Parade through Queen Street and Adare Street, before taking Santa to his grotto in Dunraven Place.

Then, at 4.30pm in Queen Street, the Ogmere Vale Silver

Band will lead a sing-a-long of popular carols and songs as the Christmas lights and decorations are officially switched on.

On Thursday, December 6, traders in Bridgend Indoor Market will invite people to come and sample the sights, sounds and tastes of the market between 5pm and 8pm, as part of a special celebration called 'Traders' Turns'.

The event will also see the launch of the Art About Us soundworks project, which will give visitors an opportunity to listen to tales about the market's past, and enjoy interesting facts and funny stories.

There will also be opportunities to try making paper lanterns or marzipan animals.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 27

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4.30pm Watch the switch on of the Christmas lights and Carol singing around the Christmas Tree (QUEEN ST)

6th, 7th & 8th December
11am-5pm Shop at the Craft and Food Christmas Markets (CAROLINE ST)

Saturday 8th December
11am-4pm Ride the Christmas Express (QUEEN ST)

Saturday 15th December
2pm Elf activities and World Records (ADARE ST)

for more information call 01656 786639 or visit bridgendtowncentre.com

FREE Christmas parking
After 2pm between Monday 10th to Saturday 15th December
After 10am between Monday 17th to Saturday 22nd December
After 10am Monday 24th December, Bridgend Only - All day at the council's Sunnyside offices on Saturday 8th, 15th and 22nd December

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WANTED 1,200 ELVES

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Speak to other elves on facebook

106.3

WINTER/CHRISTMAS AREA PROFILE

APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street profile

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Arts project's 'cultural regeneration'

AN art project that has been running in Nolton Street, Bridgend, looking at how art can contribute to the "cultural regeneration" of an area is just coming to an end.

The 'Art About Us' project was run by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), and Rabab Ghazoul, the artist in residence, told The GEM about it.

She said: "I have been based in an empty shop space at 71, Nolton Street, and the project is in its final week of activities with two more events to go – our PechaKucha, which takes place this evening (Thursday, November 29), and our Indoor Market Social on Thursday, December 6."

She explained that a PechaKucha night is an evening of cultural exchange and debate, offering Pa snappy format for artists to share and talk about their work.

She said: "People choose 20 images and speak for exactly 20 seconds about each image. We've been using this format to invite local artists and creative people in and around Bridgend to talk about their work."

"We've heard from a diverse range of artists and creative people, including Dan Wood the photographer, Louvain Rees, a brilliant young local historian, Chris Ryan, a glass artist and sculptor, Caitlin Jenkins a fourth generation potter from Ewenny Pottery, and many many more."

She added: "We have decided for this last Art About Us event to invite local councillors and council staff to not only see some of the work of brilliant local artists, but also to take part in a debate with Bridgend residents around cultural regeneration issues in the town."

"The event is free. However, we encourage people to book their place to avoid disappointment, as spaces are limited."

Telephone Rabab Ghazoul on 0775 9933311 or email artaboutusbridgend@gmail.com to book a place.

This year, organisers are aiming to gather at least 1,200 people dressed as elves.

To take part, either wear your own elf costume or wear red or green clothes. Special elf hats will be provided and the day will feature lots of elf-related fun.

On the subject of all things festive, Seasons Christmas Outlet in Brynmynyn, is playing its part in making

Bridgend's festive plans



Coast Hair Studio and St Bride's Flowers are adjoining business en route.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

The Christmas Craft and Food Market will line Caroline Street over three days, December 6-8, with cabins offering a range of festive goods and present ideas, including hand-crafted jewellery, textiles and home wares.

The 'Christmas Express' will roll into town on Saturday, December 8, to offer free train rides for the family between 11am and 4pm.

Then, on Saturday, December 15, at 2pm in Adare Street, the 'Elf-steddfof' will return to try and beat last year's record of 1,000 elves.

On the subject of all things festive, Seasons Christmas Outlet in Brynmynyn, is playing its part in making

Christmas a magical occasion, and is well worth a visit.

Back in Bridgend town centre, Santa's Grotto in Dunraven Place will be open 12pm-6pm on Saturday, December 1; 11am-3.30pm on Sunday, December 2; 11am-4.30pm on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Saturday, December 15;

11am-4pm on Friday, December 21; and finally 11am-4.30pm on Saturday, December 22.

Entry to the grotto will cost £5 per child and all proceeds will go to Heronsbridge School.

Visit www.bridgend-towncentre.com or call 01656 786639 to find out more.

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Public Services Award for Barry Police Chief

BARRY Police Chief Inspector Jay Dave, formerly Area Commander of Barry and the Vale, and now leading a team for the South Wales Police Authority dealing with major events and civil emergencies, has been honoured with a prestigious public services award.

The award was presented last week at the MDA annual awards ceremony in Cardiff by Vale AM Jane Hutt, in recognition of his career in the police force spanning 23 years.

The award also made particular recognition of his role as an equality and diversity champion in the police force.

The awards ceremony was opened by the Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan on



Chief Inspector Jay Dave and Jane Hutt at the MDA awards ceremony.

behalf of the founders, Dr and Mrs Khatib.

They have a vision for presenting role models such as Chief Inspector Jay Dave to the younger generation:

"to achieve higher goals, live in harmony with our time and interact with human societies and cultures in their variety, richness and plurality".

Vale MP welcomes broadband cash

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the release of European Union money to fund high speed broadband in rural Wales.

Mr Cairns said that, after several months of delay in Europe, UK Government pressure has resulted in the EU approving the UK's £530 million investment in rural broadband.

Wales will get £56 million of this, to spend on the project, which is the next phase in the delivery of the Welsh Government's commitment to make high speed broadband available across the country.

It will build on BT's existing investment, with the aim being that 96 per cent of Welsh homes and businesses will have access to world class broadband speeds of up to 80 Mbps by the end of 2015.

Mr Cairns said: "This decision is great news for the Vale and for Wales. Britain is in a global race and we cannot allow the rural and larger villages in the Vale to get left behind because of bad infrastructure."

He added: "For the last two years, I have been campaigning for

better broadband service for residents and businesses across the Vale.

"Barry, Llantwit Major and Colwinston now have fibre-optic broadband, and I will be pushing to make sure that Cowbridge, Wenvoe and the rural Vale will be included in the areas to benefit from this further investment."

investment.

"I trust that the Welsh Government and its contractor BT Openreach will now make sure that the rural Vale gets the infrastructure to match its aspiration, providing local people and local businesses with the tools they need to get on and prosper."

Marie Curie offering 'Lights to Remember'

THE Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale, will be holding its annual 'Lights to Remember' ceremony on December 6 to celebrate the lives of loved ones who are no longer with us at Christmas.

The event takes place at 6pm in the hospice gardens, where Welsh singer Bruce Anderson will be entertaining the crowd with some festive songs, as well as a reading from the hospice chaplain.

A spokeswoman said: "Afterwards, there will be mulled wine and mince pies served in the garden, so wrap up warm. Those who wish

to sponsor a light can do so by sending a donation to the Hospice fundraising team, calling 02920 426068, or emailing: helen.griffiths@mariecurie.org.uk to write a dedication to your loved one, which will be displayed until twelfth night.

"We would be very grateful for any donations for red wine to help us make our mulled wine."

"Please bring any donated bottles along to the fundraising office at the hospice."

For more information or to sponsor a light, contact Helen on 02920 426068 or email helen.griffiths@mariecurie.org.uk.

Tai Chi

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale is launching a Tai Chi class at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, geared to over-50s.

For further information, contact Susan Provis on 01446 744643.

Cavatina concert

BETHEL CHAPEL, Plassey Street, Penarth, will be the venue for a Peace on Earth Christmas concert by the Cavatina Singers on Friday, November 30, at 7.30pm, supported by soloists and friends from the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Contact the secretary (029 20512054) for tickets, or purchase at the door.

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Payback projects are making a difference

THE Vale Council's visible services team is celebrating 10 years of working with Cardiff's probation payback team to help offenders make a positive impact on their community.

The team chose to mark this by embarking on another community project, with offenders helping to clear the grounds of St Mary's Church in Barry, under close supervision of the probation service.

Over the past years, work done by the partnership has included litter picks, tackling issues such as fly-tipped furniture, clearing graffiti and working in parks and open spaces.

The cabinet member for visible services and housing Coun Rob Curtis, said: "A decade's work is no mean feat. I would like to express my thanks to everyone who has made a difference to local communities in the Vale."

"The teams will work hard over the next three months to drastically improve the church grounds for its parishioners."

Denny White, senior enforcement and compliance officer at the Vale Council, said:

"Each year, the team



The flower beds at St Mary's Church.

works throughout the summer cutting the grass and tending flower beds at St Mary's Church, and this latest agreement will see them cutting back the overgrowth at the back of the church grounds."

Susan Borges, curator at St Mary's Church, said: "For many years we struggled to maintain the grassed area at the rear of the church, but a great weight was lifted from our shoulders when the boys from the probation payback team kindly offered to maintain it for us."

"They really have done a marvellous job to date, and we cannot thank all involved enough."

STEPPING OUT WITH A GUIDE DOG

A LOCAL politician will find out how it feels to be blind at an event hosted by Guide Dogs Cymru on Monday, December 3.

Peter Black, Liberal Democrat AM for south west Wales, will put on a blindfold and walk the streets of Bridgend.

Accompanied by a sighted guide and a long cane, he will attempt to avoid the many obstacles that face blind and visually impaired pedestrians daily.

The event starts at 10.30am from Bridgend Library, Wyndham Street, Bridgend.

A number of councillors have also agreed to come along, includ-

ing town mayor Roger Marsh.

Andrea Gordon, engagement manager for Guide Dogs Cymru, said: "At Guide Dogs we are committed to ensuring that all blind and partially sighted people can enjoy the same freedom of movement as everybody else."

"But the reality is that they have

to overcome extraordinary challenges every day to do the things that the rest of us take for granted.

"By coming along to Bridgend, you will be able to step into the world of blind and visually impaired people. We're sure it will open your eyes."

WHAT'S ON - IN BRIEF

Welsh language chat

A WELSH language chat group meets on the last Thursday of every month at 8.30pm in the West End Social Club, St Nicolas Road, Barry. For more information, contact Anna on 07931 849258.

Christmas fayre

ON Saturday, December 1, a Labour Party Christmas fayre will be held at St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry, at 10.30am. Christmas goodies, gifts, presents, tasty cakes to eat!



Stagecoach prove the purr-fect fundraisers for Children in Need

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts group raised a fantastic £402.40 for Children in Need, with half the money raised going locally to youngsters at Heronsbridge Special School in Bridgend, where Stagecoach is based after-school and at the weekend.

Students and teachers dressed up as cats for their classes to support the event. What a purr-fect way to raise money!

The fancy dress theme was chosen because Stagecoach celebrates its 25th anniversary next March with a performance of the musical 'Cats', planned at the NIA in Birmingham, featuring nearly 4,000 children from Stagecoach schools around the UK and the world.

To join Stagecoach in January 2013, visit: www.stagecoach.co.uk or call 01446 781454.

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COWBRIDGE UNDER-16s ARE THE WELSH CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS OF 2012!

COWBRIDGE competed at the Welsh National Cross Country Championships in Brecon on Saturday, November 17.

In the under-16 (year-9 and 10) girls' event, Seren Allin (year-9) had a great run, finishing in third place. Cerys Bradshaw (year-9) also ran well to finish 12th, while Millie Green (year-10) came 23rd and Ela Emyr (year-10) came 30th to complete the team, who came first. Rebecca Thomas also ran, finishing 34th.

In the senior race, the team came second overall, with good runs from Fiona Bray (18th), Nikita John (26th), Izzy Eddy Williams (30th) and Annabel Curle (32nd).

The year-7 and 8 race was a tough one for the year-7s, but they all fared well and came seventh overall out of 18.

Sanant Emyr came 35th; Meriel Clode 52nd, Emily Jenkins 59th and Selina Radcliffe 69th, to make up the team. Also running was Rachel Anstey (73rd); Aimee Jones (78th) and Jordan Meek (83rd).

Well done to all the girls who took part!

Netball
THE senior netball team played in the Presidents' Cup tournament, hosted at Whitchurch High School on Wednesday, November 7.

The girls were drawn in a tough pool and had to play against St Teilo's, Bryn Hafren and Whitchurch in the preliminary rounds.

Outstanding defence from Caitlin Allin at GD, Beth Sloan at GK and Naduni Jayasinghe at WD ensured that Cowbridge were always on the front foot and enabled Liz Whitehouse at C and Anna Wynne at WA to control the game well.

Great shooting from Mairi Boxall at GA and Nancie Edwards at GS ensured that Cowbridge were able to dominate the initial rounds, securing three convincing wins; 8-2 v St Teilo's, 7-4 v Bryn Hafren and 9-4 v Whitchurch.

As a result, the Cowbridge team won the pool and qualified for the final against Howells.

This began with fast pace and high skill levels, with both teams battling for the initial lead.

It was Howells who secured the first goal, but the girls remained

calm under pressure as the game progressed and were only trailing 3-2 at half-time.

In the second half, outstanding defence from the Howells girls made it difficult for the Cowbridge attack to penetrate the ball.

However, a solid team performance saw Cowbridge secure a very convincing 12-1 win. Well done to all the girls! Player of the match – Mali Poulden.

The year-7 netball teams played Brynteg away on Monday, November 12.

The 'B' team played first and got off to a flying start thanks to excellent goals from Megan Hodgson at GA and Olivia Mitchell at GS. We were leading 9-0 at half-time.

In the second half, Brynteg made some necessary changes in defence, which made things a bit more difficult for the Cowbridge team, who came under pressure.

However, excellent control from Sarah Jones at C and Rachel Anstey at WA ensured Cowbridge possession remained high as the girls secured an excellent 11-0 final score. Well done 'B' team!

After beating Stanwell very convincingly in their last match, the 'A' team got off to a shaky start against a

start, pulling away to lead 7-0 at half-time. In the second half, Stanwell showed greater resilience in defence and made it harder for the Cowbridge attack to penetrate the ball.

However, a solid team performance saw Cowbridge secure a very convincing 12-1 win. Well done to all the girls! Player of the match – Mali Poulden.

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However, excellent control from Sarah Jones at C and Rachel Anstey at WA ensured Cowbridge possession remained high as the girls secured an excellent 11-0 final score. Well done 'B' team!

After beating Stanwell very convincingly in their last match, the 'A' team got off to a shaky start against a

very strong Brynteg team.

Excellent defence from Elin Swallow at GD kept the Brynteg goals to a minimum, but the Cowbridge girls trailed 7-5 at half-time.

In the second half, the Cowbridge team came out fighting and outstanding linking play from Jordan Meek at GA and Sophie Rees at GS kept the Cowbridge girls in the game and they scored the first goals of the second half to level the score.

Meriel Clode at C and Tina Evans at WD made some vital interceptions resulting in turnover ball, and created scoring opportunities for Cowbridge.

An outstanding team performance saw the Cowbridge team push ahead to secure a win of 11-9. Well done to all the girls!

Players of the match: 'A' Team – Elin Swallow, 'B' Team – Rachel Anstey and Sarah Jones.

Hockey
THE senior hockey squad played in the preliminary round of the Cardiff and Vale County hockey tournament.

After Bishop of Llandaff and St David's College dropped out, Cowbridge travelled to

Plasmawr to play them and Llanishen.

Playing Plasmawr first, first half possession was 50/50, with both teams playing well. In the second half, Rachel Bradshaw scored a great goal from a short corner. The final score was 1-0.

Cowbridge played Llanishen next; again a great game between the two teams. The game finished 0-0, but Cowbridge had more goalscoring opportunities with two short corners awarded. Llanishen beat Plasmawr 1-0, so Cowbridge qualified for the final because of the short corners awarded.

Special mention must go to Laurie Thomas and Laura Howells in defence, who stopped the opposition having a shot at goal. Rachel Bradshaw's solo efforts in attack and Izzy Eddy Williams and Rosa Hartman's work helped too. Good luck in the final!

The year-10 girls played Howells School at Leckwith, and took a little while to settle on the surface, conceding a goal early on in the first half.

They were much stronger in the second half, with skillful stick work from Hannah Lister-Sims, Milly Green and Rosa

Hartman. Good breaks from Ellie Eddy Williams meant we had numerous strikes at goal and two short corners, but unfortunately we just couldn't score.

All credit to Howells' defence, who had to work really hard to keep us at bay.

Final score 1-0, player of the match was Ellie Eddy Williams.

Cowbridge year-9s dominated the first half in their match with Brynteg, with Jemma Viney, Genevieve Kirk, Seren Allin, Cerys Bradshaw, Sian Smith and Sophia Harpin all working hard in attack and midfield to keep possession of the ball.

After two great attempts, Jemma Viney slotted one in before half-time.

In the second half, Brynteg achieved a brilliant sequence of play to score a great goal.

Molly Price and Megan Duncombe played well in defence and stopped the ball entering the defensive 25 on any other occasion.

Cowbridge had a few more chances to snatch a win, but the ball never found the back of the net.

The game ended 1-1. Players of the match – Seren Allin and Jemma Viney – well done!

Rugby
A STRONG start from Cowbridge year-8 Second XV against Plasmawr had them on the back foot from the start.

There was strong running from the backs and forwards alike; competing well at the rucks and stringing plenty of phases together.

Plasmawr scored the first try, which was converted, and this was swiftly followed by an interception try by Ellis Cartledge-Llewellyn to bring the match to a draw.

Plasmawr led 12-7 at half-time, but Cowbridge were back on form in the second half and Oliver Rowbottom went over for Cowbridge's second of the match.

Dogged work around the tackle and ruck area from James Hill and Dylan Lloyd-Doyle eventually paid off and Cowbridge crossed the line a third time.

The conversion was slotted over shortly before the final whistle, and Cowbridge had won the game 19-12.

Man of the Match – James Hill.

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Christmas & New Year 2012

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Most dates for our very popular Christmas Party Nights are now full but there is still a chance to book on the nights below and take advantage of our special late booking offers. So you can bring "your party to our party" for a memorable night with work colleagues or family and friends.

Our highly regarded and long serving Chef Nigel Tutton will be offering a traditional three course meal with coffee at the competitive price of £27.95 per person.

Dates available are:

Saturday 1st December – Last minute discount of 15% for parties of 6 or more on this night only.

Friday 21st December – Glass of house wine per person will be included in price.

Saturday 22nd December – Bottle of house wine per four guests for parties of 8 or more.

Don't leave it too late – ring now to reserve your places

Tables still available for Christmas Day Lunch and New Year's Eve Party night.

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CAOS coffee COWBRIDGE
Amateur Operative Society (CAOS) is holding a coffee morning at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, on Saturday, December 1 from 10am-12.30am. Admission £1 to include tea/coffee and biscuit. Cake stall, small gifts, tombola and raffle.

Penarth fayre

ON Saturday, December 1, 'Penarth Live at Home Scheme' will be hosting a Christmas fayre from 10.30am at Trinity Church, Stanwell Road, Penarth; £1 entrance fee will include a cup of tea/coffee. Children will not be charged. For more information, call 02920 712516.

Toy and train sale

BARRY toy and train sale takes place on Sunday, December 2 at 10.30am-3pm in Barry Leisure Centre.

Organiser Chris Dyer said this week: "Barry is one of our most popular shows in an ideal venue and it has a unique atmosphere."

"Traders will be there to sell, but are also happy to look at your surplus items, with a view to exchanges or outright cash purchase, so raid the attic now!"

The next show at Barry will be on Sunday, February 3, but before then, the big Cardiff

show at Penarth Leisure Centre takes place on Saturday, January 5.

Contact 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdyer-fairs.co.uk.

Sgurs Cymraeg

MAE grwp sgursio Cymraeg yn cwrrdd ddydd lau olaf pob mis o 8.30yn yn Glwb Cymdeithasol y West End, St Nicolas Road, Y Barri. Grwp croesawgar a llac. P'un a ydydd yn rhugl, dysgu neu ddim ond eisau i ymarfer mae croeso i bawb – Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch ag Anna ar 07931849258.

Llantwit carol concert

THE Llantwit Major Twinning Association's Christmas carol concert will be held in St Illtud's church on December 3 at 7pm, with RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and Llanilltyd Fawr junior school choir.

FoE meeting

THE next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be at 7.30pm, in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, on Tuesday, December 4. Barry and Vale FoE will set-up a working group on the LDP, with the priorities of a green belt around Barry and no more inner urban development, but a realistic, sustainable plan for a new town in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It will attack any restrictions on the appeals system, but says it is pleased to see the Welsh Government gain control over 'by-laws', which can help in protecting our natural and urban environments.

Save the Children

THE committee of the Llantwit Major and District branch of Save the Children Fund is holding its annual coffee morning on Friday, December 7 from 10.30am-12 noon at the Sycamore Inn, Colwinston.

Entrance £2.50, to include coffee and mince pies. Raffle and various stalls.

Tree planting

THERE will be a planting day at Monks Wood, Wick on Saturday, December 8 from 10am, followed by a re-launch of the wood at 1pm. All welcome; bring a spade if possible. Further information on 01656 890386.

Nottage fayre

ST DAVID'S Church, Florence Street, Nottage, will be holding a Christmas fayre on Saturday, December 8 at 12 noon.

Father Christmas will be in his grotto. Free admission. There will also be light lunches provided and various stalls.

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Please call for menus and bookings

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Sat 8th Male Legends: songs from the best male artists
Fri 14th BRK Disco 70s/80s all your favourites
Sat 15th Just Whitney Tribute
Fri 21st BRK Disco
Sat 22nd Freddie Mercury Tribute
Fri 28th BRK Disco
Sat 29th The Underdogs
8PM ONWARDS - FREE ENTRY

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BRK Disco with an Icon theme. Free entry - children's play area.

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Christmas warm up event

Saturday 8th December

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CALOR

£5,000 windfall for young rescuers of Llantwit Surf Life Saving Club



Llantwit Major Surf Life Saving Club has been congratulated by Vale MP Alun Cairns on being awarded a £5,000 grant by the Lloyds Bank community fund.

The club, situated on one of the best surf beaches in south Wales, provides a voluntary lifeguard service and first aid point.

It has grown from a small number of young volunteers housed in an RAF packing case, to a club with over 180 members providing continuous volun-

tary service on the beach.

The Vale MP (pictured above with members of the club), heard that the Lloyds community grant would fund junior surf rescue boards, to help teenage members learn how to manage the board from calm water to heavy surf.

The fund was launched in 2012 to recognise initiatives that inspire and support young people across the UK.

Mr Cairns said: "I really enjoyed meeting the young members at their regular training poolside session.

"With 40 or so junior members, it's clear to me that the club continues to go from strength to strength.

"The money from the grant will ensure that the young people will be able to train, compete and achieve lifesaving qualifications over the coming years.

"The young lifesavers make a truly positive and potentially lifesaving contribution within the local community in Llantwit Major."

The club is always pleased to welcome new members. To find out more, visit www.llantwitmajorslsc.org.uk.

Win pair of tickets to ffresh restaurant's festive music night!



DINERS at ffresh Restaurant at Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay, will be served carols alongside their Christmas pudding, at a festive Christmas music night on Monday, December 3 – and three GEM readers can each win a pair of tickets to the evening!

It is the latest in a series of live music nights where members of the Welsh National Opera Chorus entertain customers as they enjoy a three-course menu using the best award-winning Welsh produce.

The menu for the Christmas music night menu includes a three-course dinner with a choice of cream of parsnip and honey soup; smoked salmon mousse, brown toast and horseradish crème fraiche; ham hock and parsley terrine with piccalilli relish or Shaun Hill's twice baked soufflé with spinach puree to start.

The main course selection includes slow-cooked shoulder of Welsh lamb, cassoulet of white beans with sage and rosemary; fillet of black bream, herb risotto and tomato salsa; loin of pork and braised belly, mustard mash, curly kale and café au lait jus and Jerusalem artichoke pudding and deep fried flat bread, all accompanied



ABOVE: Pedw4r.

with a generous serving of vegetables.

To finish, there's a choice of traditional Christmas pudding with Penderyn whisky sauce; dark chocolate and Merlyn tart with Sub Zero ice-cream; iced mango parfait with passion fruit milkshake or a selection of Welsh cheeses with Daffodil Cottage oat cakes.

At intervals during the courses, live music will be performed at by PEDW4R.

Its members, Meriel Andrew (soprano); Sian Meinir (mezzosoprano); Michael Clifton Thompson (tenor) and Martin Lloyd (bass), are all in the chorus of the Welsh National Opera and their programme includes popular Christmas classics such as 'Walkin' in a Winter Wonderland', 'White Christmas', 'When a Child Is Born' and 'Mary's Boy Child'; tra-

ditional carols 'Oh Holy Night'; 'Away in a Manger', 'In the Bleak Mid Winter', 'Hark the Herald Angels' and 'Oh Come all ye Faithful', plus Welsh seasonal favourites 'Si Lwli' and 'Seren Nadolig'.

Tickets for the Christmas music night are £39 per person and include a welcome drink, three courses, coffee, half a bottle of wine and entertainment.

To book tickets, visit www.wmc.org.uk/music-night or call 02920 636464.

For a chance to win a pair of tickets, answer the following question: Christmas day falls on which date?

Telephone 01446 774484 with your answer.

The first three callers will win a pair of tickets. No correspondence will be entered into, and the judge's decision is final.

OWNER TELLS OF HIS LOVE FOR 'MY FELLA'

VALE Point-To-Point enthusiasts will welcome the arrival of John Beasley's *Big Green Annual 2012*, which captures in pictures all the fun and excitement of the 2011/12 season.

This A4 192-page hardback annual has more than 550 colour images and two of those pages have been devoted to Andy Quick, mine host of the Greendown Inn, Drope.

Mr Quick is the owner/trainer of the grey gelding *My Fella*, which won the restricted race at Bonvilston last season with 16-year-old Charlotte Prichard in the saddle.

He writes: "I love my riding but I'm a weak person who can't give up my food. I couldn't live on a jockey's diet of Mars Bars and Coca Cola.

"My fitness is gained exercising Eddie (That's his horse *My Fella*), but I would ideally like to be fit enough to do six minutes of jogging or bike riding – the time it takes to complete a three-mile steeplechase.

"I take *My Fella* to Omore on the coast, where Rob Williams trains his horses.

"I exercise him on the sand dunes and it's just wonderful."

One thing certain is that Mr Quick has done a good job in training *My Fella*, and he is hoping to lose enough weight to ride him in a race himself during the coming Welsh season.



Another Vale man featured in this wonderful, well-tryed annual, which captures the very spirit of the sport, is novice rider Paul Sheard.

Paul, who can count the number of winners he has ridden on one hand, is well-known and well-loved in the sport.

He caused one of the biggest upsets in Welsh hunt-racing history when winning the Welsh Point-To-Point

Grand National at the Pentrych Hunt at Bonvilston in 2006 on *It's Only Me*, owned and trained by Robert Williams, of the Omore Trekking Centre.

The *Big Green Annual* costs £26.95, plus £5.95 p&p, and can be obtained from Paleface Publications, 30 Thistlebarrow Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7AL, or by calling: 01202 309489.

BRIAN LEE

WHAT'S ON in brief

Mixed media demo

ON Thursday, December 6, Cowbridge Art Society will welcome Barry artist Adrian Metcalfe (see www.adrian-metcalfe.co.uk) who will give a mixed media demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, from 7pm-9pm. Visitors are welcome.

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Slate Barons lecture

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, December 7 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of Town Hall, Cowbridge.

"The Slate Barons of North Wales" is the title of a talk by Gwerfyl Gardner and it will be followed by mince pies and wine!

Coffee morning for hospice COWBRIDGE 'Stitch and Bitch' invites you

to join them for a coffee morning and Christmas craft sale at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday, December 8 from 11am-2pm.

Profits will be donated to Y Bwyth Newydd Hospice, Bridgend.

School Christmas fair

GLADSTONE Primary School in Barry will be holding a Christmas fair at the school on Saturday, December 8, from 12 noon-3pm.

There will be craft stalls, Santa's grotto, refreshments, children's games and much more.

Christmas fun for all the family... All welcome.

Please support your local community school.

Church choral concert

ON Saturday, December 8 at 7pm in Holy Cross Church, the Cowbridge Choral Society will present their Christmas concert.

The 30-strong choir, conducted by Carole Lloyd and accompanied by Geoff Howells, will be performing a programme of traditional, new, and some special carols from around the world.

There will also be several solo performances.

Tickets cost £7, which includes a Christmas drink and are available from choir members, WG Davies of Cowbridge, Chris Williams Opticians in Llantwit Major, and also on the door.

GEM winners!

THE lucky winners in the recent Bijou – Glamorgan GEM competition (November 15) are as follows:

Mr P Morgan of Llantwit Major; Mrs M Harris of Bridgend; and Mr L Warnock of Bonvilston.

All three win a £50 party voucher at the Bijou party centre in Cowbridge.

• Keep looking out for more exciting competitions in The GEM.

Llantwit Major School Christmas Fete
Saturday 8th December
10.00am - 12.00pm

Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TQ



TY CADOG QUIZ EVENING IS HELD IN PENARTH

SUPPORTERS of Ty Cadog, the campaign to establish a canolfan gymunedol Gymraeg (Welsh language community centre) in the Vale, are raising funds for the project.

The first event will be a quiz night in the Windsor Arms, Penarth, hosted by Dewi Tsips, beginning at 7.30pm tomorrow (Friday, November 30), with *llawer o hwyl* (plenty of fun) prizes, and a raffle.

A spokesperson said: "Don't worry if you think your Welsh isn't up to it. Join in with a team who can help you with the Welsh – while you help them with the answers!"

Cynhelir noson cwis i godi arian at Dy Cadog ar nos Wener, 30ain Tachwedd, yn y Windsor Arms, Windsor Rd, Penarth, 7.30yh, yng nghwmni cwisfeistr Dewi Tsips. Croeso cynnes a dewch yn llw!

(www.tycadog.org)

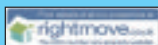
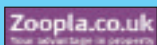
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Mid Terraced, two bedrooms, living room, fitted kitchen/diner. Sea views from front. Could lend itself to off road parking (subject to usual planning consent). Well presented. Viewing essential.
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Mid terraced, three bedrooms, upvc DG, Gas CH via combi. Garage in block. Enclosed rear garden. Ideal first time buy. No chain.
£94,950



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Maintenance free, ground floor. Living room, modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, sun terrace overlooking communal gardens. Garage/parking.
£116,950



STRATFORD GREEN, BARRY
SEEL AUCTION - Mid terraced, three bedrooms, through living room. Overlooking green. Enclosed garden. Garage, upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.
Guide Price £49,000



EVERARD STREET, BARRY
SEEL AUCTION - In need of some modernisation. End of terrace. Three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, through living room. Enclosed rear garden. Auction Date 11/12/12 at 3.00 pm at the Park Inn Hotel, Cardiff.
Guide Price - £69,000



MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
Corner positioned. Three double bedrooms, master ensuite. Sitting room (converted garage). Living room, dining room, modern replacement kitchen, utility & wc cloakroom. Rear garden/Parking.
£199,950



MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
Modern detached. Living room, sitting room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast utility room - w.c. cloak. Detached double garage. Landscaped rear & side garden. Cul de sac position. Ample parking.
£249,950



THE HAYES, SULLY
Spacious two bedrooms, further room/study, modern apartment. High specification. 31ft living-open plan kitchen, utility area. Ensuite and fam. bathroom. Two separate verandas. No chain. Designated parking.
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REDBRINK CRESCENT, BARRY ISLAND
Ground floor apartment. Fantastic far reaching sea views. Own garden to front & side. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. No chain.
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Three bedroomed mid terraced traditional. Through living room, kitchen/diner, spacious family bathroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Town centre location.
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JENNER ROAD, BARRY
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GREENACRES, BARRY
Three bedroom, modern detached, w.c. cloakroom, living room, conservatory, 2011 fitted kitchen/diner. Driveway-garage. Well presented throughout.
£169,950



CWRT PENCOEDTRE, BARRY
Extremely well presented. Three bedrooms, modern end of terrace. Replacement fitted kitchen, through living room, kitchen/diner. Driveway providing parking. Ample room to extend (subject to consent). Cul de sac position.
£134,950



HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
Spacious living. Renovated in 2009. Re-wired, re-plumbed, replacement kitchen & bathroom. 2009 combi boiler. End of terrace, bay fronted traditional. Through living room, dining room, four bedrooms, garage. Sea views from garden.
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Edwardian mid terraced, bay fronted traditional. Three reception rooms, four bedrooms, family bathroom. Original features. Sea views over Bristol Channel. West end location.
£189,950



WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
Spacious living throughout. Mid terraced traditional. Three bedrooms, three reception rooms, enclosed courtyard - lane access, upvc DG - Gas CH via combi. Situated amidst shops, schools. Ideal family home. No stamp duty.
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MELROSE STREET, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, open plan kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom. Enclosed garden, raised decked sun terrace leading to further level area. Driveway providing parking.
£119,950



GWENNOL Y MOR, BARRY
Modern mid terraced. Well presented. Living room, kitchen/breakfast, conservatory, master with ensuite. Garage in block. Enclosed level rear garden. Viewing highly recommended.
£142,000



PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
Two bedrooms. Semi detached. Placed on a spacious plot. Living room, kitchen/diner, conservatory. Driveway. Private enclosed garden.
£145,000



COLLEGE PLACE, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached property. West End location. Extensive views from rear. Off road parking. Gas CH via combi boiler. upvc DG. Viewing advised.
£146,950



ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
1930's bay fronted, semi detached. Retaining many original features. Stained glass windows, block flooring. Three bedrooms, sea & park views. Two reception rooms, w.c. cloakroom, kitchen/dining room.
£304,950



JEWEL STREET, BARRY
Three storey mid terraced. Option of converting basement rooms. To the ground floor: two reception rooms & kitchen. To the lower ground: Basement rooms. To the 2nd floor: Three bedrooms, family bathroom.
£119,950



EITHINEN BER, PENCOEDTRE VILLAGE, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Modern detached. Master ensuite. Corner, cul de sac position. Living room, dining room, conservatory. Converted garage (sitting room). Low maintenance gardens, well presented.
£189,950



GILBERT LANE, BARRY
Four bedrooms. Detached dwelling. Living/dining. Set in private lane with few other dwellings. Well presented. Ensuite to master. Landscaped rear garden. Ample parking/driveway/garage.
£194,950



TAF CLOSE, BARRY
Detached bungalow. Living room, dining room, kitchen/diner. Enclosed rear garden. Conservatory, two bedrooms. Converted garage used as further bedroom. Wet room, wheelchair accessible.
£164,000



CONWAY DRIVE, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Front, side & rear gardens. Living, dining & conservatory. Driveway/garage. Swimming pool. upvc DG, Gas CH.
£189,950



HEOL BROADLANDS, BARRY
Three bedroomed. Semi detached. Front, side & rear gardens. Living, dining & conservatory. Driveway/garage, swimming pool. upvc DG - Gas CH.
£174,950



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Traditional semi detached bungalow. Bay fronted. Three bedrooms, reception room, sun lounge. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway to front.
£189,950



CAER FFYNNON, BARRY
Four bedrooms. Modern detached. Shower/w.c., cloakroom, living room & dining room, fitted kitchen - integrated appliances. Far reaching sea views. Raised decked sun terrace. Garage/driveway. No chain.
£239,950



MARLOES CLOSE, BARRY
Two bedrooms, mid terraced. Parking to front. Living room, kitchen/breakfast. Enclosed garden. Ideal first time buy.
£99,950



MILTON ROAD, BARRY
Stunning mid terraced. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner. Enclosed rear garden. upvc DG - Gas CH via combi. Option of off road parking (subject to usual planning consent).
£94,950



GRIFFIN CLOSE, HIGHLIGHT PARK, BARRY
Detached property. Four bedrooms, two reception rooms. Private enclosed rear garden. Driveway leading to garage. Utility room, wc cloakroom. No chain.
£199,950



COLDBROOK ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Bay fronted semi. Living room and dining room, fitted kitchen, driveway/side access. Level enclosed garden. No chain.
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CLOS YR FULRAN, BARRY
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MIN Y MOR, GARDEN SUBURB, BARRY
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£254,950



Barry chess teams come close to 100 per cent success in league games

THIS week has seen three of our four teams in action.

The Bosons returned an excellent 4.5 to 0.5 victory away at Aberdare.

This is their third consecutive victory and takes them back up to second place in the first division, but they remain a massive 7.5 points behind runaway leaders Cardiff Castles.

During this success-

ful period, their most consistent performer has been Craig Woolcock, who has won all three of his games.

In the second division, the Camelots recorded a 3.5 to 1.5 victory against the fast-improving Cardiff Dragons. The Camelots remain at the top of the division after also recording three successive victories.

They are now a healthy four points clear of their nearest rivals.

Lee Davis has won his games in each of these three victories.

In the third division there was a difficult game for the Quarks away to Caerphilly Knights.

After a couple of poor performances the Quarks needed a result, as the rest of the division was catching up or passing them in the league table. The result was a 2.5-all draw.

This means that the Quarks remain in third

place by virtue of winning more match points than Caerphilly.

Both teams have exactly the same number of game points. This is such a competitive division that only seven points separate the Quarks from 10th place.

During this period, Peter Watkins, the draw specialist, was the most consistent performer, picking up two consecutive draws before winning his game against Caerphilly.

Next week the Quarks are the only Barry team in action and they return to Caerphilly to play the Rooks.

For more details, visit our website: www.barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY, with matches starting at 7.30pm.

New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

Mr Terrence J Hoggett - Dan Y Bryn, St Hilary - sensitive reduction of up to 30 per cent to sycamores and wych elm on bank/boundary with Bush Inn. Removal of western red cedar.

Mr Len Richards - 4 Great House Meadow, Llantwit Major - remove London plane, horse chestnut and beech.

Miss Niamh Hurn - 10 Slade Road, Barry - first floor extension of existing lean-to ground floor extension.

Fat Face Ltd - Unit 1, Waitrose, Birds Lane, Cowbridge - one fascia sign, built up fascia panel and new HVAC.

Mr David Pegg - 78 Castle Avenue, Penarth - proposed two storey extension including new porch.

Mr Rhidian Llewellyn - Ty Mynydd Barn, Ty Mynydd, Welsh St Donats - proposed conversion of existing barn to residential accommodation.

Mr Peter Hayman - Lettons House, Lettons Way, Dinas Powys - removal of Condition 1 of Approval reference 2011/0503/FUL relating to an occupancy condition for the dwelling.

Mr Terence Keegan - 18 Meliden Road, Penarth - single storey garage.

Mr A Thomas - Railway Hotel, 1 Plymouth Road, Penarth - crown lift ash.

Mr Jason Clarke - The Summer House, The Downs, St Nicholas - erection of ground floor rear extension, detached garage and proposed new vehicle and pedestrian access to public highway.

Graham White - 9 Bull Cliff

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Walk, Barry - proposed build of detached double garage with conversion of integral single garage to living space with proposed extension to side of existing single garage building to boundary wall.

Mr and Mrs A Dunglinson - St Johns Bungalow, Marcross, Llantwit Major - alterations and extension to the existing dwelling and provision of a new outbuilding/garage.

SCN Properties - Unit 8, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry - proposed workshop and associated offices.

Mr John Taylor - 292 Holton Road, Barry - change of use of ground floor shop (A1) to take away (A3).

Mr Derwyn Jones - Spinfield, Aberthaw Lane, Aberthaw - garage to side of property.

Mr Jon Luxton - 2 Windsor Terrace, Penarth - proposed single storey rear extension to form disabled work live space.

Lafarge Cement UK Ltd - Aberthaw Works, East Aberthaw, Barry - installation of equipment required to burn solid recovered fuel.

Mr David Webb - Picton House, Church Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge - re-roofing of shed/workshop.

Mr Colin Hawkins - Flush Cottage, Flanders Road, Llantwit Major - construction of a new two storey extension; a new pedestrian access and the demolition of existing outbuildings and construction of a new garage.

MHA Care Group - Ty Gwyn, 21-23 Stanwell Road, Penarth - installation of extract ventilation

and galvanised ductwork to the rear of the building.

Mr P Smith - Swanbridge House, St Mary's Well Bay Road, Swanbridge, Penarth - erection of a single storey timber framed orangery replacing existing extension and garage.

Mr Robert Freese - Old Carriageway Stables, Hensol - renewal of planning permission 2007/01353/FUL for the demolition of existing stable and building a new stable with access to storage on first floor.

Mr and Mrs Phil and Samantha Wakely - 9 Stacey Road, Dinas Powys - proposed two storey rear dining room, playroom and bedroom extension.

Mr Darren Brown - 98 Fontygary Road, Rhose - erection of single storey dwelling.

Mr M Howell - Flat 1A, 15 Marine Parade, Penarth - ground floor side extension.

Mr and Mrs Jones - 9 Dros y Mor, Penarth - front dormer extension.

Mr Raymond Armstrong - 13 Glebeland Place, St Athan - ground floor extension to the side and rear elevations comprising kitchen, utility and family room for residential use.

Mr Filer - 23 Pwll y Min Crescent, Peterston super Ely - dismantle in sections yew tree closest to house.

Mr Peter Vidler - Cwrt yr Ala House, Michelston le Pit - rebuilding collapsed listed historic garden wall.

RUGBY PLAYERS STAR FOR THE 'ACCIES'



COWBRIDGE School provided no less than three players to the prestigious Welsh Academics rugby side in their annual game against

Llandovery College.

Freddie Harries, Charley Morris and Chris Brace all played in a narrow 17-15 win for the 'Accies'.

AB

PJ

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CADOXTON TAE KWON DO IMPRESS IN CHELTENHAM

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do travelled to Cheltenham where more than 400 competitors from all over the UK converged to take part in the Global Tae Kwon Do International British Championships.

Once the patterns sections were completed, and with six areas in use all day, the point stop and continuous sparring categories got under way with the usual efficiency.

Competing for the first time were Jessica Blackley and Ellie Osborne. Both did extremely well, with Jessica coming away with first place and Ellie taking third in their respective point sparring categories.

Dominating his category, Cameron Williams took first place in the point sparring. He was then unfortunate to have some dubious judging in the continuous sparring, where the bout went in to extra time twice. It was eventually decided by the referee giving Cameron second place.

Emily Halford did well to take third place



BACK ROW: Mason Osborne, Morganne Gomez Jones, Matthew Bennett, Jamie Halford, Alan Evans and Emily Halford. **FRONT ROW:** Jessica Blackley, Cian Allen, Cameron Williams, Evan Baron, Ellie Osborne and Cody Jacobsen.

in the girls' point sparring, while young Cody Jacobsen and Jensen Rees both fought their way to third in the pee wee point sparring.

Evan Baron fought his way through to the final of the boys' light-weight point sparring, where he came away with gold.

In only his second tournament, Alan Evans did well to come away with second place in the

junior boys' under-18 heavyweight categories.

Coming back in to form, Morganne Gomez Jones took first place in point and second in the junior girls' under-18 light heavyweight categories. Jamie Halford took second place in the men's heavyweight point sparring.

Competing in one of the larger categories of the day, Matthew Bennett fought his way

into the junior light heavyweight continuous sparring final, coming away with first place.

He went on to take second in the junior light heavyweight point sparring category.

Keita Enfield fought her way through to take second place in point in the ladies' lightweight category, and third in the continuous sparring.

Just missing out on a podium place this time

was Thomas Haysham, having moved up an age and height category.

I am also sure it won't be long before Joel Wells and Mason Osborne will be among the medals.

Instructor and coach Ron Thomas would like to thank the parents for their continuing support.

Ron Thomas 8th Degree

Lacklustre Llantwit take three points

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC travelled to the Leckwith Stadium recently to play Cardiff Grange Harlequins.

Unfortunately, on a bright sunny day in Cardiff, it was only the weather that could be praised, as it was a lacklustre performance by the Major against lower-placed opposition on a well-prepared pitch, and was a great disappointment to those who had travelled for this Welsh League fixture.

Early chances were squandered by several of the visiting team in the first 30 minutes, but the worst of these was when Tom Rees blasted a shot over the bar from two yards out.

It was 35 minutes before the Harlequins had a shot at goal and after that they had a good spell of play either side of half-time, creating several good goalscoring chances and keeping the Major pegged in their own half.

The home side had another great shot which struck the bar with force and fortunately for Major the ball

bounced clear. It was further cleared upfield and played through to leading scorer Nash, in an offside position which was not spotted by the referee.

He rounded the keeper and shot but the ball struck the post and went out of play.

The Major then took the lead with a fluke of a goal which came from a cross by Rhys Gould. The keeper mis-handled and the ball fell onto the back of a defender and over the line.

Shortly after, the Major won a corner and it was taken long by Tom Rees. He curled the ball in towards the goal and it went over the heads of the defenders and also the outstretched arms of the keeper and into the goal, thus fully redeeming himself for his first half miss.

A fortunate result for Llantwit Major AFC. However, a win is a win and 12 points from their last four games takes the Major into third place in the league table.

PL

COWBRIDGE DARTS

T U E S D A Y November 20, in all four venues hosting the mixed doubles knock-out competition, there were many close games.

The eventual winners were Mo Flemming and Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms), Annie Daily and Steve Simmonite (Edmond's 'A'), Pam Rosser and Clive Williams (Carne Arms) and Joan Smith and Dave Thomas (Farmers Arms).

On Tuesday, December 4, there will

be the first round matches of the Clive Blick trophy knock-out competition. Matches will take place at the White Lion and the Edmond's Arms.

All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

Note that all teams can register new players up until the New Year, so if you wish to play darts this season, it is not too late to get in touch and join a team.

Also, the league is keen to expand the number of teams playing next season, so if a group is

interested in forming a team (six players is the minimum number required) and your local pub is willing to host, get in touch with league chairman Rob McCaver (email: cowbridgedarts@googlemail.com), and register your interest.

For further information and enquires, email Paul at: cowbridgedarts@googlemail.com. Up to date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

RM

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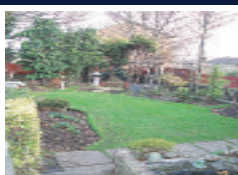
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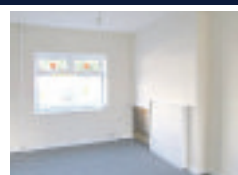
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BASSETT STREET, BARRY

- A good size 3 bedroom mid terrace property close to town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain.

£93,950



SOUTH WALK, BARRY

- A good size 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Front & rear gardens
- Ideal first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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LLAN FARM, MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscaped front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in a quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed

£275,000



PLAS ESSYLLT, SUNNYCROFT LANE, DINAS POWYS

- Immaculately presented 2 bedroom 1st floor maisonette
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private front & rear gardens
- Balcony with views over Dinas Powys towards Llandough
- Off road parking to front
- Set on no through road, offering short walk to semi-rural woodlands

£119,500



MEADOW VALE, BARRY

- A very well presented 3/4 bedroom semi detached property
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Off road parking
- An enclosed & low maintenance garden to rear
- Garage conversion with gallery room above

£175,000



REDBERTH CLOSE, BARRY

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private parking & driveway to front
- Conservatory
- Scope to extend subject to planning
- Viewings recommended

£127,500



MOREL STREET, BARRY

- A well presented 3 double bedroom property in popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Enclosed garden to rear
- Some original features remain
- Open to reasonable offers

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OFT

Royal Porthcawl to hold Senior Open tournament

THE Speedy Services Wales Senior Open will move to a new date on the European Senior Tour schedule when it returns to Royal Porthcawl Golf Club from June 14-16, 2013, for the first time since 2010.

Englishman Barry Lane captured the 2012 title when the event was played at Conwy (Caernarvonshire) Golf Club on the August bank holiday weekend, with the former Ryder Cup player holding off the challenge of compatriot Philip Golding.

Royal Porthcawl had previously hosted the event in 2009 and 2010, before the tournament returned to the Senior Tour schedule this season after a year's absence, with Speedy Services as the new title sponsor.

The new June date – with the final round due to be played on Father's Day – marks the 12th edition of the Speedy Services Wales Senior Open, which was first played in 2001.

Royal Porthcawl welcomes the tournament as

a precursor to hosting The Senior Open Championship, presented by Rolex in 2014 – the first Major Championship to be played in Wales – with both events part of The Ryder Cup legacy following the staging of golf's premier team competition at The Celtic Manor Resort in 2010.

First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, said: "It will be a great pleasure to welcome this event back to Royal Porthcawl Golf Club next year, bringing us one step closer to hosting our first Major Championship in 2014."

"As host nation to the 2010 Ryder Cup, Wales' golf offer continues to improve, allowing us to showcase our wonderful courses and giving us an opportunity to offer a warm Welsh welcome to all those who come here to enjoy golf, whether it is to play, watch or just learn more about the game."

Andy Stubbs, managing director of the European Senior Tour, said: "The Speedy Services Wales Senior Open made a welcome return to the European Senior Tour calendar in

2012 and we are delighted to be going back to the magnificent links of Royal Porthcawl next year for the first time since 2010.

"Our thanks must go to Speedy Services for backing this superb event, and also to the Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council for their continued support. We look forward to bringing first class golf back to the region and allowing the golfing public of South Wales to witness some of the greatest players compete on their doorstep, including Ryder legends and home favourites Ian Woosnam, Mark Mouland and rookie Paul Mayo."

The Speedy Services Wales Senior Open will once again have a prize fund of £250,000, and is expected to attract some of the leading senior tour players.

Previous champions have included Bill Longmuir (2003), Carl Mason (2005, 2007), José Rivero (2006), Peter Mitchell (2008) and John Bland (2010).

Ath youth survive stern test

BRIDGEND Athletic youth travelled to Singleton, Swansea on a warm and sunny afternoon to play Swansea Uplands youth, who they knew from experience would provide a stern test.

This was indeed how the game started with both teams playing good open rugby and both sets of forwards contesting the set pieces.

There was good defence from both teams and it was not until the 15th minute that the first scoring opportunity came to the away team following good forward pressure which led to a penalty 30 metres out.

Outside half Scott Jones took the points making the score 3-0 to the Athletic.

The game continued in the same way with the Swansea Uplands backs beginning to run at Bridgend Athletic. Good Athletic defence with Chris Price and Tom Jenkins in the centre and Josh Seldon and Jack Evans on the wings did not allow Uplands any real scoring opportunities and the half ended at 3-0 to the visitors.

From the restart the Bridgend forwards began to apply pressure to the Uplands pack and

began to dominate the territory and this led to the game's first try when captain Lloyd Wilson went over wide out. The conversion was unsuccessful making the score 8-0 to Bridgend Athletic.

Any thoughts that this might make the home team buckle were quickly dispelled however and the Uplands pack tried hard to disrupt the Athletic's possession from the scrums and lineouts and despite being physically smaller it was clear that they were very well drilled.

The Athletic forwards would not be contained however and continued to provide consistent ball for the backs and also had the upper hand in the battle for territory.

Forward power continued to be the order of the day and this was finally rewarded with a second try for back row man Lloyd Wilson with two minutes remaining which was converted by replacement no. 10 Scott Govan to bring the final score to 15-0 to Bridgend Athletic.

While thoroughly deserving their win Bridgend would agree that Swansea Uplands provided a very stern test in a game played in an excellent spirit.

MP

Local firm helps out at Rest Bay

OVER the weekend of November 24/25, the Student Surf Tour rolled into Porthcawl for the first leg of the tour.

Lifeguards from Rest Bay Lifeguard Club provided the event safety cover but were left with a problem following the recent theft of their quad bike.

Club captain Chris Page said: "We agreed to provide safety cover for this event some time ago, but the theft of our quad bike meant we had no way to get our rescue equipment onto the beach."

Luckily hire firm SHB 4x4 hire, who have a depot in Pyle, heard of our plight and offered to sponsor a vehicle for the event and hired it at a subsidised rate.

Given what the weather was like over the weekend, we really needed

somewhere dry for lifeguards to patrol from and allowed us to keep all our rescue and first aid equipment at the water's edge.

Chris added: "We are very grateful to SHB 4x4 hire for assisting us with this."

"Around 150 students attended the event with the contest held on Rest Bay. Although the surf wasn't particularly big it was clean, which was perfect for the competition."

Despite the weather the event showed off Rest Bay as a top surfing destination to students from across the UK with some travelling from as far away as Hull.

To donate to the Rest Bay Lifeguard appeal to replace their stolen quad bike, please visit <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/> and search for Rest Bay

CP

Tia lands gold at the world championships

TIA Lewis (age 12) from Bridgend Junior Warriors kickboxing club fought her way through the ICO (International Combat Organisation) qualifiers earlier this year to secure a place at the ICO world championships held in Paris last week.



Tia Lewis age 12 and Master Jeff Copp from Bridgend Warriors.

Tia along with other members of the WKU (Welsh Kickboxing Union) travelled to Paris as part of the Welsh team after attending a special training and medical session.

Over 1,000 fighters competed at the world championships with fighters arriving from all over Europe, Russia, USA and India. Tia battled her way through the under 35kg, girls continuous and points categories to beat opponents from France, Scotland and Wales and take gold for Wales.

After the championships Tia, a year 7 pupil at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwenwas, was able to relax and enjoy a bit of sightseeing with the rest of the team. "I really liked climbing to the top of the Eiffel Tower," she said.

Tia who has been training with Claire Vicker and Jeff Copp at Bridgend Warriors for four years has competed in and won many regional and national titles.

This is the second year running that Tia has won both gold in points and continuous competition at the world championships which last year were held in Holland. In 2010 Tia also took the world champion title in her category for points fighting in Alexandropolis, Greece.

Tia has gained massive support within the Brackla and Coity community who sponsor her. Their continued support has provided the financial support to ensure that Tia has been able to achieve her potential at these competitions.

Special thanks to Steve and Diane, Sarn Members Club and Once Upon a Playtime.

TA

PORTHCAWL UNDER-13s LOSE OUT TO 'THE ATH'

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC under-13s met their old foes Porthcawl for the first time in 12 months at a surprisingly dry and calm Rest Bay.

Both sides had a pretty good record this season, so this was shaping up to be a top of the table clash.

The Seaweeds started well with a few early darts at the green and yellow's line, but it was the Bridgend side that put the first points on the board after winning the chase to touch down a kick from their outstanding fly half.

Porthcawl immediately

ly rallied and scored a try for themselves, courtesy of Bevan Howells.

The Ath scored next but the green and blacks countered again with a try from outside half, Brandon Cooper.

The half time score was 10-14, with nothing to choose between the two well-drilled sides.

Bridgend started the second half with obvious determination to stretch their lead and succeeded by scoring two fantastic tries from their new look backline.

Porthcawl's No.8, Jac Flanagan then stormed over the top to pull the Seaweeds back to within a score of their opponents.

This only seemed to motivate the boys in green & yellow to stamp their authority on the game and so they did with a final breakthrough try from their speedy right winger.

The final score was Porthcawl 17 Bridgend Athletic 33, and this certainly didn't flatter the away side, who deserved their triumph.

Porthcawl man of the match was Bevan Howells.

Rest of Porthcawl squad: Ethan Waters, Louis Protheroe, Ben Collins, Anthony Burnell, Max Budding, Kurtis Pridmore, Lloyd Mortimer, Tom Davies, Jac Maund, James Mayne, Joe Stradling, Dan Williams, Callum Morgan, Ben Roach and Harry Evans. IB

County swim squad shine

BRIDGEND county swim squad are riding high on success with 10 swimmers making Welsh squads.

Swimmers in the squads are Helen Jenkins, Sara Lougher, Bethan Sloan, Katie Rees, Laura Ashton, Zoe Mountjoy, Sophie Evans, Billie-Jo Barrow, Rebecca Donnelly and Anna Morgan.

Bridgend have also made the A final in the Premier arena league which will take place in Millfield on December 8. In the final will be Plymouth Leander, Millfield, Cardiff, Taunton Deane,

Bridgend county, Bournemouth, Swansea and Exeter City.

Last month also saw five of our swimmers achieve selection for one of two Welsh teams competing at the annual ASA National County Championships in Sheffield.

Bridgend swimmers, Matt Sullivan, Bethan Sloan, Chloe Laforges, Katie Rees and Sophie Evans were part of the west Wales team who beat off stiff competition to win the second division and gain promotion to the first division for 2013.

The club's success has attracted interest from other swimmers, with athletes from Cardiff, Swansea, Aberdare and Llantrisant joining to swim at the Bridgend Performance Centre, training under the talented and capable head coach Phil Melhuish.

Tri-athletes Helen Jenkins and Vicky Holland, who both competed in the London Olympics, are also members of the Performance Centre.

PL

Bridgend chess

BRIDGEND A defeated Pontypridd Barbarians 3-2 to go third with 19.5 points in East Glamorgan's Chess league Division 2, chasing Cardiff AJs who are second with 20.5 points and Barry Camelots who are first with 24.5 points.

In division 4, Bridgend's B team scored a good win over Cardiff Knights, winning by 3.5 to 1.5, giving them 19.5 points from 6 games, closing the gap on the leaders Caefatri, who are 7 points clear at the top with 26.5 from 7 games and Cardiff Knights who are in second place on 20.5 points from 7 games.

For more information visit www.bridgendchessclub.com.

MK

Disabled team looking for support

FAMILY-run disabled football team Bridgend Disabled FC, are looking for a local company to sponsor the team to help with their quest to send their team to Spain next May so that they can play in the Catalan Cup followed by the Belgium International.

Although we are running several fundraising events we need to raise £3,500 so that we can send a 7-a-side team to these competitions.

This Friday we are holding a charity night at the Wyndham Arms in Ogmere Vale, entry is by donation. We have live music with Mr Fishy plus a raffle, so why not come along and support us.

KH

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM are looking for your news, reports and other items of interest - let the people know what is going on by emailing us: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Afternoon lessons on Thursdays, also at Noltan Church Hall, at 2pm with John and Christine Evans, whose lessons are for both beginners and also those who have played some bridge and would like to improve their bidding and card play.

For further details and to register an interest please contact John on 01656 880372.

DN

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family around her. Dearly loved wife of Pat, adored
mum of Janice, Lynda and Andria, step-mum of Debra
and Rachel, and much loved Nan to all her grandchildren.
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and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, 6th
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SALVAGE William (Bill)

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BOND David John

Suddenly on 20th November 2012, David John Bond sadly
passed away. Much loved son of the late Statia Bond,
loving father to Debbie and Gary and grandfather to
his grandchildren
Funeral Service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, 7th
December 2012 at 11.30am.

CHITTY Dorothy

Peacefully on November 27th at UHW, Cardiff.
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her grandchildren.
Dorothy is resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral
Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff &
Glamorgan Memorial Park, Port Road East, Barry on
Wednesday 5th December at 2.15pm. Flowers may be sent
to the Funeral Home.
Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

The GEM

Pat Trudgian

Missed every second
of every day.
Loved always,
John, Jeremy,
Jonathan, Jenny
and all the family.
xxx

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Natalie Morris

**Happy 21st
Birthday**
2nd December 2012

Lots of love from
Mum, Dad, Jonathan,
Emma and the girls. xxx



Public Notices

Little Island: proposed path improvements as part of the Wales Coast Path

The Wales Coast Path is a Welsh Government grant funded initiative,
creating an 870 mile linked route around the coast of Wales, officially opened
in May 2012. The Council are seeking views on further improvements under
the initiative as detailed below.

On the west side of Little Island (Piers Point), we have a field adjacent to
the current un-surfaced path, which is classed as a Site of Importance for
Nature Conservation (SINC). It is our aspiration to create a new surfaced
path inside the field margin, linking the headland to the harbour and car park
(see path '3' on map plan).

The proposed outline plans are as follows:

- Create a link from the west side of the farmac path (path '2' on the map
plan)
- Remove vegetation and meadow turf to depth required for stable base to
accept a tarmac surface
- Ground work within 3 metres width of the field margin inside of the
existing fence line, to provide a 2.5 metre wide path by approx. 182
metres long
- Remove the existing fence
- Transplant and re-locate compatible meadow turves to the north-east of
this area near the new path across Little Island
- Create a gradient link from the field to the harbour path
- Signage at appropriate points

A copy of the plans and map may be seen free of charge at the Docks
Office, Barry Docks, Barry: CF63 4RT during normal office hours, or at www:
valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/littleisland. Copies of the information may be bought
from the Dock offices at the price of \$4.50.

Please forward any comments by 27th December 2012 to:

**Public Rights of Way
Countryside and Economic Projects**
publicfootpaths@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Dated this 29th day of November 2012



GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Jason Paul Williams
trading as
J. Williams International
of 17 Florrd Ddu, Pyle,
Bridgend, CF33 6JG
is applying to change an
existing licence as
follows:
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and 3 trailers at
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Village Farm
Industrial Estate, Pyle,
Bridgend, CF36 6BZ

Owners or occupiers of
land, (including buildings)
near the operating centre(s)
who believe that their use
or enjoyment of that land
would be affected, should
make written
representations to the
Traffic Commissioner at
Hillcrest House, 386
Harehill Lane, Leeds,
LS9 6NF stating their
reasons, within 21 days of
this notice. Representors
must at the same time send
a copy of their
representations to the
applicant at the address
given at the top of this
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A guide to making representa-
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The GEM

News, Sport, Letters,
Features, What's On,
Jobs, Motors....

Become top sports coach of the future!

THE Vale Council's sports and play development team are looking for talented teenagers who are interested in sports coaching – to join an exciting new training programme.

The 'Coaches of the Future' programme will give young people plenty of first-hand experience, with guidance and mentoring from some of the best local sports coaches to help them make their first steps into sports coaching and leadership.

The programme will start with a four-day course during February 2013 (half-term week), and over the months that follow up to the end of July 2013, candidates will have the chance to earn coaching qualifications in sports such as football, netball, athletics and coaching disabled performers.

Applicants will also be given the opportunity to put everything they have learnt into practice by helping with the running of several school and community sports festivals and events being organised by the Vale Council's sports and play development team.

Applications are open to any 16 and 17-year-

olds (born between September 1, 1995 and September 1, 1996) in the Vale. The key for all applicants is a passion for sport, as Ben Williams, the Vale Council's active young people co-ordinator, said: "Research has found that between the ages of 16 and 18 is a peak time for attracting people into coaching, and we hope that this new programme will give young people in the Vale a unique opportunity to kick-start their coaching CVs and gain personal skills and experience that they will hopefully put to good use in the future."

An application form for the 'Coaches of the Future' programme can be downloaded online from: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsand-play, while an information evening is being held at the Vale Council's Dock Office in Barry on Thursday, November 29, with sessions at 5.30pm and 6.30pm for potential candidates to find out more.

The deadline for applications is Friday, December 14. Further information from Ben Williams on 01446 704795.

Barriers facing older people

AS part of my new Engagement Roadshow, I have met with many older people from all over Wales to hear first-hand about what matters to them.

An underlying theme is that older people don't need huge things to make a difference.

Often it's just something small to help to overcome "the thousand little barriers that get in the way" to quote an older person I met recently.

It is with this in mind that I ask your readers for a little bit of help; I would like to hear from older people and older people's networks about the barriers that impact upon them, their friends and their family members.

These are the things that may appear small or minor and may not cost a lot of money to fix but if they were addressed they would have a real impact on many people's lives.

You may think 'if only someone could sort that out it would make life so much better'; whether the barrier is large or small I would like to hear about it.

We must also recognise and acknowledge the many examples of what works well, those

innovative or good practice ideas that help improve some aspect of everyday life.

These are taking place all over Wales and need to be shared and celebrated.

Comments will be compiled in a report to be published early next year and I will be picking up a selection of issues to take further action on.

Please contact the Commission with any examples you have by e-mailing ask@olderpeoplewales.com or by phoning 08442 640670 or visiting our website www.olderpeoplewales.com.

Sarah Rochira,
Older People's Commissioner for Wales.

THANK YOU TO HOSPITAL STAFF

IN these difficult times, we often hear of complaints regarding poor care in the NHS; However my experience is completely different.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the excellent care and attention that my wife has received while she has been on St Barruc's Ward at Barry Hospital for the

last 11 months. This care and attention also applies to all the other residents on the ward.

The staff carry out their duties with a smile, rarely moan and are always courteous.

They are also very supportive to all relatives, myself included. Once again, my thanks to all the staff

Malcolm Evans,
Barry.

School hosts teachers for a sports forum



Once upon a time in Penarth...



Andy Bradshaw entertained children with his Hallowe'en story and specially-made puppet.

THREE - time BAFTA winner Andy Bradshaw has written new children's stories especially for patrons of Hamptons in Penarth.

The first storytime session took place recently at Hamptons Blue Pelican Café.

Following the tea, the children, along with their parents and grandparents, enjoyed a Hallowe'en story written by Andy especially for the occasion.

The feedback was tremendous and story-

time will now be a regular event at the Penarth store.

The next storytime is on Wednesday, December 5 at 4.30pm. Andy has written a new story for this event, with a Christmas theme about a little boy and a snowman. He's also making a new puppet that will help to tell the story.

The cost for children is £6, including tea, parents can order from the regular menu. Booking for the storytime session is essential; please call Hamptons to check availability.

Quiz team joy

THIS year's year-8 team at St Richard Gwyn RC School are the Vale of Glamorgan winners of the 'All-Wales school liaison core programme quiz'.

Once again, the year-8s have been learning about substance misuse, social behaviour in the community, personal

safety, ages in law and health as part of their PSE lessons.

The competition also challenges their observation skills with a video clip followed by questions. They are hoping to follow in the footsteps of last year's team who became the national champions.

They have more hard work ahead as the local round was a close competition going to a double tie-break with Westbourne School.

Fortunately, the team knew all about the recent local elections for Police Commissioners – but so did the pupils from Westbourne!

The next challenge was to name five capital cities for Bulgaria, Iraq, Canada, Norway and Greece. St Richard Gwyn scored four, while Westbourne only knew one answer.

The next round is the regional round where we will compete to represent south Wales. Well done and good luck, boys!

PALMERSTON School in Barry hosted an exchange with teachers, from Malta, Czech Republic, Poland, Spain and Denmark, to focus on different ways sport is taught.

They were welcomed at an official visit to the Senedd by Vale AM Jane Hutt, pictured (above) with Palmerston School and the exchange team.

Cadoxton pupils raise £300 for needy children

ON Friday, November 16, Cadoxton Primary School fundraised for Children in Need – encouraged to bring in £1 to wear pyjamas or non-uniform.

We did fun sports activities to celebrate us getting the Active Marc PE award.

We also sold wristbands for a little girl called Niamh, who has cerebral palsy and needs an operation in New York so she can walk again (as featured in THE GEM).

We played badminton, football, Just Dance (A

Nintendo Wii game where you can dance), five-a-day TV – an online website with different dances and activities to do in five minutes and large board games where we are the pieces, and circuit training during the day.

We raised £290 for Children in Need. We loved Friday, and we hope that the money we raised will change the lives of children all across the country.

We also made a video about the day, which is on the website: www.cadoxtonprimary.co.uk

Tegan (11)
School journalist



Jane Hutt AM with the Friends and Neighbours Volunteer team at Age Concern.

Friends and Neighbours' Christmas fair

THE Friends and Neighbours' Christmas fair at the Age Concern Senior Health Shop on Holton Road, last week was opened by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

She reported: "Led by volunteer Gaye Fifield, the Christmas fair was well provided, with wonderful cakes, scones and mince pies as well as a tombola and raffle. The fair raised funds for the Friends and Neighbours group that provides support and companionship for older people throughout the year."

Did you know you can follow The GEM on Twitter? Find us @gem_news and keep up-to-date with what's going on in your area

SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SCHOOLS' CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

THERE were mixed fortunes for the Vale schools and pupils at the 15th South Wales Regional Schools' cross-country championships.

Held on different afternoons at the same venue, Trelai Park in Cardiff, the championships are open to full-time pupils and students from schools and colleges in an area which includes the former counties of Mid and South Glamorgan. They attracted a combined declaration of 1,000 entries.

The three boys' races, at under-15 (years 9 and 10), under-13 (years 7 and 8) and senior (year 11 and sixth form), were held in bright, sunny weather but over a course still very spongy after heavy rain.

The opening race, for under-15s, was dominated by pupils from Cardiff and old Mid Glamorgan. The highest placed Vale finisher was year-10 John Wardle (Barry Comprehensive), who finished 14th in a field of 185.

In the under-13 race, there were even more finishers, 262. In a race won by Benji Edwards (Brynteg), year-7 Rhys Jones was the first Vale finisher, in fourth place, while three other pupils – Samuella Williams (Westbourne, year-8, 12th), Antonio Peacock (Stanwell, year-8, 17th) and year-7 Sion Spence (Barry Comprehensive, 20th) – gained places in the top 20.

Only 68 boys toed the starting line for the senior race, an event in which the first nine finishers have all represented Welsh Schools in international competitions. It is always hugely encouraging to have quality year-13 pupils taking part, and four of them finished in the top six.

Year-13 Matthew Edwards was the first Vale finisher, taking the third place medal, with year-11 Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg) in ninth place and Ieuan Jones (Stanwell, year-12, 13th) and Elliot Clissold (Barry Comp, year-13, 18th) also featuring in the top 20.

Sadly, none of the Vale boys' teams gained medals.

The three girls' races were held after very heavy overnight rain. Although the afternoon was dry and cloudy, the wind, unusually, came from the east.

The opening race – for the senior girls – was dominated by year-11 Ellie Atkinson. Last year, when she was in year-10, the Llantwit pupil finished only third in the under-15 race.

In the last year, Ellie has made a huge improvement and, before this race, she had been unbeaten over the coun-



try this season in three races.

Make that four now because, on her debut in the senior section, the year-11 finished clear of her Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan team-mate Kate Seary (Whitchurch) to claim her first win at this fixture.

At 54, the number of senior finishers seems small, but it is roughly 20 more than the usual number.

Behind Ellie, her Llantwit year-11 school-mate, Erin Hayes (sixth), was the next Vale finisher, while year-13 Fiona Bray (eighth) was the spearhead for a Cowbridge squad – Nikita John (year-13, 15th) and the year-11 duo of Izzy Eddy-Williams (20th) and Annabel Curle (21st) were the other three scorers – which retained the team title for a third consecutive year. Kate Coker (Stanwell, year-11, 13th) also claimed a top 20 place.

As with the boys, the first Vale finisher in the under-13 girls' race was a year-7 pupil, Jessica Wadey (Cowbridge) has shown good form in the local Cardiff and the Vale schools' leagues, but she upped her performance over a tough course to take third place behind the winner, another year-7, Lucy Dennis (Porthcawl), and experienced year-8 Holli Jehu (Cyfarthfa).

There was another huge field in this race, with 252 girls finishing. Four more Vale pupils claimed top 20 places, two year-7s – Taia Jones (Stanwell, 14th) and Alisha Hayes (Llantwit, 16th) – and the Llantwit year-8 duo of Rachel Reilly (19th) and Hannah Jones (20th).

With three finishers in 20, it was no surprise that Llantwit finished in the team medals. Their points score of 80 placed them second to Cwm Rhymni (66) in the A teams' section with Cowbridge in third spot (86), and claiming the medals for the first B team as well.

Seren Allin, winner of the under-13 race last year, had a comfortable win on her debut in the under-15 section, finishing clear of Bethan Evans (Y Pant), who was also second in the under-13s in 2011.

The number of finishers – 122 – was disappointing compared to the equivalent boys' race, but the standard at the front end was encouraging.

Five other Vale girls achieved a top 20 finish, including four from Cowbridge – year-10 pupils Cerys Bradshaw (eighth) Nadine James (ninth) and Millie Green (14th) plus year-9 Genevieve Kirk (19th) – and Ysabelle Williams (Westbourne, 12th).

The Cowbridge points score of 32 was a record low in this section over the 15 years, and, for good measure, the school also retained its B team title.

Performances at this fixture will help the south Wales region to select its teams of 15 runners at under-13, under-15, under-17 and under-20 to compete at the 14th Welsh Inter Regional cross-country championships, which will be held on the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells on Saturday, December 8.

The cross-country season is a long one. Most of the important fixtures are held after Christmas, including the SIAB Schools cross-country international and the Home Counties International, which will both be staged at Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, on Saturday, March 23.

Welsh Schools has also been invited to field teams at the Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon on Sunday, April 21. Given that long season, young athletes need to pace their training and racing programmes to ensure that they are still in top form in March and April of 2013.

RESULTS:
Senior boys - 5260m – 3 big laps – years 11-14 – 68 finishers

3 Matthew Edwards (Barry) 18:07; 9 Dafydd George (Bro M) 19:03; 13 Ieuan Jones (Stan) 20:15; 18 Elliot Clissold (Barry) 20:43; 22 Elliot Richards (Stan) 21:01; 23 Will Parker (Lwt) 21:04; 25 Ben Owen (Lwt) 21:18; 27 Gareth Hurman (Barry) 21:23; 32 Tom Morgan-Wood (Cow) 21:47; 52 Alex Huntley (Stan) 23:04; 63 Tomos Havard (St Cyres) 24:25

No teams from Vale schools competed.

Under-15 boys – 4370m – 2 small + 1 big lap – years 9 & 10 – 185 finishers

14 John Wardle (Barry) 17:19; 17 David Flanagan (Stan) 17:27; 27 Cameron Gibbon (Barry) 17:52; 30 Scott McMillan (Lwt) 18:07; 47 Spencer Robinson (Stan) 18:40; 51 Ben Morgan-Brownhill (Barry) 18:53; 55 Matthew Dawson (Stan) 19:01; 63 Zac Dyer (Stan) 19:13; 64 James Hilditch (Lwt) 19:20; 70 Ben McCullagh (Stan) 19:42; 75 Alex Love (Cow) 19:55; 77 Josh Peterson (Cow) 20:00; 90 Richard Dangerfield (Lwt) 20:22; 91 Patrick Hughes (Lwt) 20:24; 98 Jack Bligh (Lwt) Nt; 109 Lewis Gibbon (Barry) Nt; 124 Rhys Knight (Stan) Nt; 144 Will Brown (Stan) Nt; 145 Rhys Fford (Stan) Nt; 152 Alex Parry (Lwt) 23:08; 161 Todd Oldfield (Lwt) 23:56; 167 Dewi Bennett (Cow) 24:40

A Teams
7 Stanwell 182; 9 Barry Comprehensive 201; 12 Llantwit Major 275

Under-13 boys – 3050m – 1 small + 1 big lap – years 7 & 8 – 262 finishers

4 Rhys Jones (Stan) 12:19; 12 Samuella Williams (Westbourne) 12:53; 17 Antonio Peacock (Stan) 12:59; 20 Sion Spence (Barry) 34; Moses Gee (Cow); 36 Rowan Allin (Cow); 37 Logan Roach (Cow); 49 Harry Carter (Barry) 13:41; 50 Rhys Bradshaw (Cow); 55 Alex Brookes (Cow); 57 Tom Wright (Cow); 62 Liam Murphy (Cow); 68 Joseph Hewings (Barry); 69 Angus Mitchell (Lwt); 73 Ben Boyd (Lwt); 74 Callum Bellamy (Barry); 78 Sam Green (Cow); 82 Callum Stone (St Cyres); 84 Josh Wakefield (Barry); 100 Will Hall (Stan) 14:17; 109 Luke Birnage (Lwt); 113 Dafydd Sedgewick (Cow); 115 Jack Such (Barry) 14:26; 118 Sam Corkhill (Cow); 121 James Dawson (Stan); 129 Dylan Chattow (Lwt); 142 Joseph Donovan (Stan); 143 Lewis Donovan (Stan); 151 Ed Lewis (Cow); 181 Callum Chattow (Lwt); 193 Jack Richards (Lwt) 15:43;



John Wardle.

197 Oliver White (Barry); 203 Jack Parry (Cow); 222 Owain Thomas (Stan); 234 Max Greve (Lwt); 236 Tom Atkinson (Stan); 253 Kyle Davies (Lwt); 254 Owain Harvard (St Cyres) 18:38; 257 Mason Richardson (Lwt); 260 Nathan Evans (Lwt); 262 Callum McInness (Lwt) 22:45

A Teams
5 Cowbridge 157; 9 Barry Comprehensive 211; 11 Stanwell 242; 18 Llantwit Major 380

B Teams
3 Cowbridge B 252; 12 Cowbridge C 585; 19 Stanwell B 743; 22 Llantwit Major B 787; 28 Llantwit Major C 1032

Senior Girls - 4370m – 2 small + 1 big lap – years 11-14 - 54 finishers

1 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 16:36; 6 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 18:21; 8 Fiona Bray (Cow) 19:10; 13 Kate Coker (Stan) 20:19; 15 Nikita John (Cow) 20:29; 20 Izzy Eddy-Williams (Stan) 21:28; 21 Annabel Curle (Cow) 21:32; 26 Kathryn Gardner (Bryn H) 22:09; 29 Lauren Blake (StRichG) 22:23; 36 Natasha Johnston (Cow) 24:06; 43 Susie Collins (Stan) 25:50

A Teams
1 Cowbridge 64
U15 Girls – 3630m – 2 big laps – Years 9 & 10 – 122 finishers

1 Seren Allin (Cow) 14:15; 8 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 15:09; 9 Nadine James (Cow) 15:15; 12 Ysabelle Williams (Westbourne) 15:43; 14 Millie Green (Cow) 15:55; 19 Genevieve Kirk (Cow) 16:34; 24 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 17:04; 25 Ela Emyr (Cow) 17:06; 26 Jemma Viney (Cow) 17:11; 34 Belinda Wallace (Bro M) 17:48; 36 Nia Attwell (Bro M) 17:54; 43 Libby Jervis (Cow); 46 Alice Tudor (Cow); 47 Tesni Sewell (Bro M); 53 Charlie Robinson (Bro M); 61 Ella Jones (Cow); 76 Tamara Pitt (Lwt); 77 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stan); 92 Sally Gambling (Cow) 21:21; 95 Carie Clarkson (Stan); 99 Daisy Williams (Stan); 108

Lucy Margus (Bryn H) 23:36; 122 Donna O'Hare (StRichG) 26:00

A Teams
1 Cowbridge 32; 7 YG Bro Morgannwg 170

B Teams
1 Cowbridge B 94; 4 Cowbridge C 242

Under-13 girls – 3050m – 1 small + 1 big lap – years 7 & 8 – 252 finishers

3 Jessica Wadey (Cow) 12:56; 14 Taia Jones (Stan) 13:57; 16 Alisha Hayes (Lwt) 14:06; 19 Rachel Reilly (Lwt) 14:22; 20 Hannah Jones (Lwt) 14:30; 22 Sanat Emyr (Cow) 14:34; 25 Emily Price (Lwt) 14:42; 28 Mali Howell (Cow) 14:47; 33 Meriel Clode (Cow) 15:00; 39 Sophie Oddy (Cow) 15:16; 40 Jordan Meek (Cow) 15:19; 47 Emily Jenkins (Cow) 15:27; 48 Aimee Jones (Cow) 15:28; 53 Lauren McGoughlin (Lwt); 54 Ruby Davies (Lwt); 57 Selina Radcliffe (Cow); 60 Samantha Thomas (StRichG) 15:52; 66 Lydia Millward (Stan) 16:05; 67 Kate Brock (Bryn H); 70 Taylor Kreishan (Bryn H); 79 Lowri Richards (Cow); 86 Rachel Ansley (Cow); 90 Millie Wiggins (Lwt); 93 Jasmine Emery (Cow); 94 Lowri Morgan (Cow); 95 Annabel Hegarty (Cow); 107 Connie Shahr (Stan); 117 Megan Roberts (Cow); 124 Leah Mazzitelli (Lwt) 17:16; 125 Olivia Ahmed (StRichG) 17:17; 130 Bethan Williams (StRichG) 17:30; 131 Macy Tierney (StRichG) 17:31; 132 Jaya Williams (Lwt) 17:32; 149 Jordan Gibbs (StRichG); 155 Katy Williams (Bryn H); 165 Menna Hill (StRichG); 168 Holly Trudgen (Lwt); 170 Olivia Tierney (StRichG); 174 Mollie Hogg (Stan) 18:36; 175 Megan Hopkins (Bryn H) 18:38; 178 Chelsea Slack (StRichG) 18:41; 183 Maisie McBride (Bryn H) 18:49; 192 Lucy Jones (Bryn H) 19:06; 194 Keira Manley (Lwt) 19:10; 195 Stephanie Knight (Stan) 19:12; 215 Robyn Ashford (Lwt) 20:22; 216 Emily Harries (Lwt) 20:24; 222



Annabelle Curle (left).
PICTURES BY IAN DIXON

Kelli Poole (Stan) 21:00; 226 Ffion Jackson (Stan); 228 Caitlin Vincent (StRichG) 21:10; 229 Sara Buckton (YG Bro Morgannwg) 22:55; 236 Jade Ashill (StRichG) 22:55; 237 Darcey Corria (StRichG) 23:00; 244 Morgan Pitcock (Bryn H); 245 Morgan Stevens (Lwt); 246 Shannon Davies (Lwt); 247 Vicky White (Lwt)

A Teams
2 Llantwit Major 80; 3 Cowbridge 86; 15 Stanwell 361; 19 St Richard Gwyn 446; 20 Bryn Hafren 467

B Teams
1 Cowbridge B 174; 4 Llantwit Major B 321; 12 St Richard Gwyn B 662; 22 Bryn Hafren B 861; 23 Stanwell B 872; 27 Llantwit Major D 954

SIAB Schools' Indoor Combined Events International, Glasgow – December 1

FOLLOWING the recent Welsh Schools Invitation Indoor Combined Events championships at the National Indoor Athletics Centre at Cyncoed in Cardiff, two Vale pupils have been selected to represent Welsh Schools at under-18 level (years 11 and 12) at the SIAB Schools' Indoor Combined Events International next Saturday, December 1.

The event will be hosted by Scottish Schools at a new indoor centre at Hamden Park. The two Vale pupils are Barry Comprehensive year-12 Matthew Collins and Annabel Curle (Cowbridge, year-11).

The opposition will be the top combined events pupils from England, All-Ireland and Scotland, while at stake are medals for the top three individuals in each section plus, in the three-to-score team competitions, medals to the first three teams.

The boys compete at 60 metres hurdles, long jump, 200 metres, shot (5kg) and 800 metres, while the girls use the



Seren Allin.

4kg shot and have a high jump instead of 200 metres.

For Matthew, this will be his third and final appearance at the fixture.

He made his debut in February 2011, in a fixture delayed because of the weather conditions in December 2010, and was a member of the Welsh under-16 team which were surprise team winners.

Last year, he competed for the under-18 squad, finishing 12th with a personal best score of 3,082 points, and helping his team finish second.

Annabel is making her debut at the event, but represented Welsh Schools in the high jump event at the 2012 SIAB Schools under-17 international at Ashford last July – and competed for her club at the England Athletics under-17 women's heptathlon championships last summer.

In Scotland, both athletes will be looking to improve on their best scores – Matthew's 3,082 from 2011 and Annabel's 3,057 from the recent indoor championships.

We wish them every success.

PETER MORRIS

RAF St Athan GC presentation night

RECENTLY, RAF St Athan Golf Club hosted its annual presentation evening, with nearly £4,000 worth of crystal being awarded to members.

The trophies are presented to the members who have triumphed in various competitions throughout the season.

Three of the most coveted awards – the junior, ladies and club championships, were for the first time in the club's history all awarded to junior members.

Both the ladies and the men's sections of the club are very proud of the youngsters, but the biggest smiles of the evening came from the parents; as brother and sister Ethan and Erin Allison took the titles 2012 junior champion and 2012 ladies champion respectively.

Another family affair saw Kyle Harman beat his brother Keiron in the finals match, and ensured that he retained his title from last year, again being crowned RAF St Athan club champion.

The Kyle Trophy recipient is decided by the committee as the player who has had a significant handicap reduction, had success in all competitions entered and has been an example to all golfers both on and off the course.

Several members fell into this category but it was unanimously decided that this year the award should be presented to Gary Bohun, who this season has seen his handicap fall into single figures.

Gwyn Favell was



Ethan and Erin Allison, with Kyle Harman, the three club champions.



Gary Bohun took the Kyle Trophy.

nominated by the members to be named as club person of the year for his tireless work in setting up and maintaining the club's own website, www.rafstathangc.co.uk

The site has proved invaluable to members and especially visitors in providing all information relevant to the club including a full round up of this year's competition results.

RAF St Athan Golf Club is extremely proud of all the competitors and congratulates each and every winner.

The club is a members club run by the members and actively



Gwyn Favell was 'club person of the year'.

encourages the junior section ensuring they have the same standing on the course as the other sections.

The club caters for green fee players but particularly welcomes new social and playing members.

Please feel free to visit or phone 01446 751043 for further information.

CM

PRESENTATION NIGHT AT BRYNHILL GOLF CLUB

THIS is my last article as press officer for the ladies' section at Brynhill Golf Club – my thanks to all at The GEM for the wonderful coverage given over the past five years.

There was a good turnout of members at Brynhill on Saturday, November 10 for the annual presentation night.

Much effort had gone on behind the scenes to prepare the rows of gleaming cups and trophies, which had been so keenly contested over the season.

Being Remembrance weekend, the proceedings began with two minutes' silence, then the ladies' trophies were presented by captain Jo Kirkpatrick, who was ably assisted by her vice-captain Julie Harkin and her incoming vice-captain Carole Bumford.

This season, no one lady seemed to dominate the proceedings. Robbie Lee won both the Barry and District and Dr Owen Cups.

Rose Pitman took the Jo Whitehouse Cup and the Gran's trophy.

Sam Pascoe, runner-up in the club championship, won the Winifred Clode Cup and the Superbowl, and Carole Bumford, the Waterford Crystal Vase (bronze) winner, was also in the winning pairing in both the Rabbits and Tigers and Foursomes knockout.

Margaret Codd was the Crystal Cup winner and also winner of both the ladies' captain's prize and vice-captain's prize.

Other winners included: Nicci Case – John Collins Cup; Liz Brown – Parkstone Cup; Chris Hopkins – Junior Gold Cup; Jane Phillips – Millennium Plate; Sue Holland – Superbowl Plate; Lynne Bubbins – Bob Hope Rosebowl; and Ann Phillips – Graham Cup.

The Jenny Williams trophy, given at the lady captain's discretion, was awarded to the honorary handicap secretary, Glynis Gould, for her support of the captain and the ladies' section.

The prestigious Lady Golfer of the Year trophy is awarded for the season's most consistent player. Points are accrued for top 12 placings in all major singles competitions.

This year's winner was Linda Hewlett.

The presentation of the men's trophies by club captain Glen Taylor followed, and then in time honoured tradition, the cups were filled with beverages and passed around for toasts.

The evening ended with a disco and a good night was had by all.

Jenny Pateman



Club president Peter Hayman (second left) and club members.



Rabbits and Tigers winners (left to right): Hilary West and Carole Bumford, with lady captain Jo Kirkpatrick.



The Gold Cup winner was Chris Hopkins.



Jenny Williams trophy winner Glynis Gould.



Lady Golfer of the Year – Linda Howlett.



Club champion Helene Cook.

TAE KWONDO CLUB'S BAG PACK



RECENTLY, Master Paul Jones and Llantwit Major Tae Kwon Do club arrived at Filco supermarket, Llantwit Major, to undertake a bag pack to raise much needed funds for the club.

A demanding day was tackled with great enthusiasm and a sense of community spirit. Both juniors, seniors and parents greeted the public with a smile and their bag packing talent was rewarded by generous donations which resulted in a grand total of £530 being raised.

A big thank you to everyone at Filco, especially the manager Lloyd for his support throughout the day. Everyone at Llantwit Major Taekwondo was overwhelmed by the generosity of the local community.

We look forward to our next fund-raising event on Friday, November 30 at Llantwit Major Rugby Club where the Cherry Hives band are performing.

All proceeds raised will go directly to the club. Tickets are still available, £4 in advance or £5 at the door; telephone 01446 706003 for more information, everyone welcome.

PJ

Latest approach to junior hockey come st the Vale

YOUNGSTERS from Ashgrove School in Penarth have been among the first in the Vale to get to grips with a brand new approach to playing hockey.

Earlier this year, Hockey Wales launched their new '4689' blueprint for encouraging junior players to take up the sport by being exposed to fun small-sided games, starting with four-a-side, then building up to six, eight and nine (4689). The aim is to make the sport more captivating, fun, and easier to pick up.

Coaches and sports leaders from across the Vale are being given training on how to deliver this new approach by Judith Powell from Hockey Wales, who said:



Hockey Wales' Judith Powell takes a look at some hockey coaching cards with Simon Jones, the Vale Council's Disability Sport Wales Development Officer, Aimee Baird from Ashgrove School, and budding sports coach Joe Blackley.

"There are so many different ways to play hockey, and 4689 is one of them. It is hoped that by breaking down the game and removing the barriers of the formal 11-a-side version, hockey can appeal to more young people. We want to make hockey fun and easy to play

anywhere, so that you can enjoy having a simple small-sided game in a school hall or playground."

Among the schools that Judith has visited so far is Ashgrove, where she helped pupil Joe Blackley lead a hockey session for younger children, all of whom have disabili-

ties. Judith was joined by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Disability Sport Wales Development Officer Simon Jones, who said: "Sport is an integral part of life at Ashgrove and Joe is part of a group of older pupils at the school who have become involved in sports coaching. The pupils have all enjoyed learning about hockey and picking up some coaching tips, and will be adding hockey to the range of sports played in the school."

If you would like to find out more about coaching 4689 hockey, go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sp ortsandplay or call Hockey Wales on 0845 045 4303.

Vale Reds get donation



CHRISTMAS has come early for the Vale Reds Disability Football Club as they have been able to buy a selection of kit for the club, thanks to a donation by Aberthaw Power Station.

The club has members from age 12 upwards, and meets on Wednesday evening for coaching and plays in the South Wales Pan Disability League.

"We were astounded when we received the response to our request for support. It is tremendous support and we are really grateful," said chairperson Pat Latham.

The donation helped to fund the purchase of passing arcs, football net, footballs and bags, kit bag, mesh bibs, large pop-up goals, agility ladders, marker cone drill sets, bleep test CD, flat round markers and rebound nets.

Aberthaw Power Station Manager Phil

Allen went along to present the cheque and said: "It is great to see young people involved in sport, and it is fantastic for us to be able to support the club in being able to buy so much equipment and kit to help the footballers with their training."

For anyone interested in joining the Vale Reds, please contact Pat Latham on 01446 701348.

Blacksmiths end season



Bill Aspinall (left) and Gary Nealon joint winners of the Mike Sollis shield.

THE Blacksmiths Arms Golf Society's final game of the year took place on Cottrell Park's Mackintosh course.

On a day of mists and mellow fruitfulness (well fog actually!), the day was dominated by Bill Aspinall and Philemon Williams.

Aspinall, playing his home course, won the stableford competition and took longest drive on the 18th, while Wick's favourite son came sec-

ond and peppered the 15th flag to take nearest the pin.

At the end-of-season buffet, the Mike Sollis shield for the best season average score was presented. Gary Nealon was caught on the final day by Aspinall, both finishing with an unimpressive 28.6 (which doesn't say a lot for the rest of us!).

However, after a few beverages, recollection of the standard of the season's golf seemed to improve somewhat!

CG

Cadoxton Bowling Club pays tribute to stalwart members

AT its well-attended and convivial 2012 presentation evening at the clubhouse in Victoria Park on Friday, November 23, Cadoxton Bowling Club gave special recognition to two of its outstanding members for their considerable contributions to the club's playing and social life.

Barry-based building contractor Les Adams, joint owner of LAPP Builders, was named personality of the year for his willing approach and unfailing cheerfulness, and club president Les Cundliffe drew attention to his undoubted bowling skills and wished him every possible success in the future.

The captains' award was given to visually-impaired veteran bowler Gilly Powell, a long-stand-

ing member of the club with an unerring ability time and time again to get the length and direction of his opening deliveries within inches of the target jack.

David Fanning, secretary of the club, said that if the fully-sighted members of the club could bowl as well and accurately there would be no holding back the club's teams from success across a wide range of competitions.

With a meal catered by the club's neighbour, the Gourmet Fish and Chip shop in Barry Road, and a post-meal raffle of a variety of prizes donated by club members, the evening also marked the end of the most recent year in office for two of the club's most illustrious bowlers.

Former club chairman Kelvin Chedzoy, a charismatic and settling

influence across the club, is well known throughout the bowling community in Wales, as is former club captain Graham Brown, a wide-ranging player at district, regional, and national levels.

"We are delighted that they are remaining at the club," said David Fanning, "and we shall continue to benefit from their advice and skills on and off the bowling green."

DF

This Swedish charmer will give everyone a high!

THE Volvo XC90 is Sweden's answer to the BMW X5: Since its launch in 2002 it has won a loyal following. Even American actress Jennifer Garner, the wife of Ben Affleck, has an XC90.

The top-of-the-range test model has smatterings of chrome on the wing mirrors and grille, as well as black alloy wheels making it look like a SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) vehicle as used in US TV series 24. It definitely looks the part.

On first acquaintance, I sit in the driver's seat perplexed as to how to remove the parking brake. I eventually realise that there is a footbrake on the left of the footwell as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

Logic suggests depressing it with my foot. This I do, only to press it further down.

After much head scratching, I resort to reading the manual, only to find that the footbrake is released by pulling a handle on the right of the dashboard.

Turn the ignition and the rattle of the 2.4-litre diesel is audible from inside. This is quickly lost when on the move and under excessive exertion the resulting grunt adds to the overall driving experience of this all-roader.

The six-speed geartronic auto can also be used as a five-speed manual. On reversing, a pop up screen appears on the dash, displaying

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS



The Volvo XC90

the helpful camera view. The XC90 is a large brute, capable of transporting seven adults.

Unsurprisingly it can feel a little cumbersome, especially when pulling out at roundabouts when there is a delayed response. But this is easily remedied by kicking the accelerator to the floor.

The high up position of this vehicle makes it an entertaining vehicle for safely overtaking on B-roads; drivers can perform manoeuvres they would rarely consider even in faster vehicles, because of its height.

Inside is comfortable and luxurious, even the air conditioning can be confined to rear occupants or the whole vehicle. The soft suspension soaks up even the worst potholes.

Parkers, the car experts, state: "The Volvo XC90 was the firm's first real off-roader. It may not be as agile to drive as alternatives like the BMW X5, but the XC90 is strong in other areas - most notable its refined ride which makes it ideal for long motorway journeys."

"It was revised in 2007 with minor exterior tweaks, a more luxurious interior and new engines. All Volvo XC90s come with seven seats, arranged in a 2-3-2 format that means most owners tend to run it as a five-seater with a simply huge boot."

"When you do need those extra seats, or fancy using it as a six-seater where everyone gets a bit more elbow room, it's a doddle to flip up the rear seats from their flat stowed position in the boot floor."

A fabulous vehicle that will appeal to a whole plethora of purchasers, from tall businessmen with large families (Peter Jones take note) through to property developers and leisure entrepreneurs.

Model tested: Volvo XC90 2.4 D5 (200bhp) SE Lux 5d Geartronic. New price range: £35,695 - £44,845.

Economy: 34mpg. Engine: 2.4-litre, 0-60mph: 10secs. Top speed: 127mph. Power: 197bhp. Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz

Tim lands treble success

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan was in good form last week.

He landed a hat-trick when *First Fantango* and *Amok* scored at Fakenham and *Explained* won at Folkestone, all on the same afternoon.

First Fantango, ridden by Michael Byrne, won the Great Snoring Beginners' Chase by 12 lengths from *Brady*, and *Amok*, partnered by D C Costello, took the Murfitts Industries Novices Handicap Hurdle by 26 lengths from *Hail Tibertus*.

Explained, ridden by Richard Johnson, won by one-and-a-quarter lengths from *Phone Home* after making a lot of the running.

At Leicester, Bridgend's Tom Flint, riding his father John Flint's *Rowlstone Lad*, also had plenty to smile about when coming home eight lengths ahead of *Worm*.

PAUL PRAISES EVAN

Irish jockey Paul Moloney was full of praise for Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams after he had won the Carey Group Handicap Chase on his *William's Wishes* at Ascot last Saturday.

William's Wishes, a winner of his previous three races, was racing for the first time in two years and ran out an easy six lengths winner from the fancied *Champions Court*.

Paul, who is Evan's stable jockey, said: "I have been riding the horse on the gallops and I thought he was ready three weeks ago but Evan wanted to wait and he was right."

Moloney gave the 7-1 chance a cracking ride but most of the credit must go to Williams, who has always thought a lot of this seven-year-old son of *Oscar*, and who has shown great patience in bringing him back to form after such a long lay off.

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LEFT: Welsh players drive Scott Williams over the line for the first of their two deserved tries. **ABOVE:** Alex Cuthbert's late touchdown enabled Wales to complete the fight-back on a proud note.

IT all began on December 16, 1905, at Cardiff Arms Park, with the 'Originals' – a team that was to become known as the All Blacks, who lost the only game of their first ever 35-match overseas tour 3-0, thanks to a Teddy Morgan try (and that famous disallowed touchdown by Bob Deans!)

This was avenged by the 'Invincibles', who were unbeaten on New Zealand's 32-match second tour, defeating Wales 19-0 at St Helen's, Swansea, on November 29, 1924.

On December 21, 1935, a Welsh team led by Claude Davey, snatched a late 13-12 victory over the All Blacks in Cardiff – which was repeated on December 19, 1953, when 'prince of centres', Bleddyn Williams, skipped Wales to a 13-8 win (and a personal double, also achieving the feat with his Cardiff club).

And that was that... Since those jubilant Coronation year scenes a staggering 59 years ago, Wales have failed to overcome the men in black from the land of the long white cloud (though Wales claim to have been robbed on at least one occasion, by Andy Haden's infamous swallow dive – which the ref certainly swallowed!)

Before the latest clash at the Millennium Stadium last Saturday, the record book read:

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

Played 28, New Zealand 25 – Wales 3, a remarkable tale of total dominance that has even included Grand Slam years (in 2005, Wales lost 3-41; in 2008, it was 9-29).

In fact, with rare exceptions, earlier narrow margins between the two arch rugby nations were followed, particularly in the 1980s, by an ever-widening gulf, with the All Blacks often running up more half centuries than the New Zealand cricket team!

The overall points total before the 29th capped test on Saturday read: *Wales 281 - New Zealand 849*, history's measure of the task facing a struggling Welsh team against the unbeaten world champions – who are being mooted in some quarters as the greatest All Blacks team ever (though the 'Originals' and 'Invincibles' might have had something to say about that!)

As the 72,372 spectators settled nervously into their seats at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, the big question was – had returning head coach Warren Gatland been able to repair his battered team's morale after two dispiriting autumn defeats?

Alas, the game was barely half a minute old when it was indelibly marked by a cynical act of violence that saw second row Bradley Davies taken to hospital after being knocked unconscious by a cowardly and totally unprovoked blow from behind by the New Zealand hooker, Andrew Hore.

Incredibly, it went unpunished by the South African referee, Craig Joubert and the other myopic match officials – as had appalling Samoan actions the week previously. (Hore was rightly cited by the fourth official, but instead of the expected severe penalty, he was banned for a mere five weeks at his disciplinary hearing, yesterday (Wednesday).)

When two other key players, tight head prop Aaron Jarvis and centre Jamie Roberts also went off injured, everyone knew the already long odds were now stacked even more heavily against a team struggling for form, whose resources were stretched woefully thin by an ever-growing casualty list.

Even so, Wales were showing far more spirit than had been displayed against Argentina and Samoa, and had two rare opportunities to put points on the board – but strangely

spurned both penalty awards, opting instead for a lineout and drive – tactics thwarted when outside half Rhys Priestland unfortunately failed to find touch. They were soon made to pay when his impressive opposite number, Aaron Cruden (ably deputising for injured maestro Dan Carter) landed the first of three first-half penalties, as the world champions slipped smoothly into gear.

Numerous missed tackles and persistent Welsh handling errors saw the ruthlessly efficient All Blacks counter in trademark fashion – No 6 Liam Messam appeared on the right wing to complete a flowing movement involving both forwards and backs with an almost effortless try, converted by Cruden.

Now increasingly dominant, there was an inevitability about their second score as veteran prop Tony Woodcock powered over, Cruden adding the conversion to make the first half scoreline 23-0 – the game already slipping out of home reach.

(With Welsh players striving with might and main just to get on equal terms, it was a little reminiscent of Muhammad Ali holding off a frustrated Joe Frazier with one hand on his head in their 'Thrilla in Manila').

When Cruden slotted a penalty just after the interval, followed five minutes later by another touchdown by powerhouse second row Luke Romano, converted by Cruden to widen the gap to 33-0, the ominous signs were that Wales could be on the wrong end of another 80s-style half century – or worse.

That this didn't happen was entirely down to the courage and spirit of the Welsh players, who redeemed earlier lacklustre displays and contrived an inventive try from a lineout, driving en masse over the All Blacks' line.

Replacement centre Scott Williams was the one who emerged from the melee with the ball – and a big smile on his face!

The try was not converted, but this sudden affront clearly ruffled Kiwi feathers, resulting in wing Cory Jane being sent to the sin bin; and it was, in fact, Wales who ended the game on a high note with a well-executed try by their own right wing, Alex Cuthbert.

Unusually, the normally reliable Leigh Halfpenny again failed to slot the conversion, but at least his team, though conclusively

outplayed, were able to leave the field with some degree of pride restored.

Now only one further chance remains to impress, and to rescue World Cup seedings, when Australia come to the Millennium Stadium on Saturday, confident they too have the measure of a Wales team they beat in last year's Rugby World Cup and white-washed in the three-test series this summer.

For the Welsh camp, the most immediate need after last weekend was to find 23 players from an ever-lengthening list of walking wounded who are fully fit and able to take the field at all!

Little wonder that the announcement of the team was delayed until today (Thursday).

In a real sense then, Gatland's match selection, his last for a while before he returns to the British & Irish Lions to concentrate on their tour to – yes, Australia – is an achievement in itself!

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